

THE

Nonconformist.

VOL. XXXIX.—NEW SERIES, No. 1697.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1878.

PRICE 5d.
POST-FREE 5½d.

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THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE.

LOUD cheers hailed the announcement on Monday evening made to both Houses in nearly the same words, that "within the last few days the prospects of a Congress have materially improved." Those cheers were doubtless inspired partly by the feeling that there are other prospects besides those of a Congress that have been improved during the last few days. The Ministry, which if it had declared war would certainly have gone out in less than two years, may, if peace is secured, probably go to the country with a reasonable hope of another six years' lease of power. Earthly hopes are, of course, always subject to the fatal influences of the unexpected; but if trade should take a turn for the better, if the formidable cloud gathered over the manufacturing districts should be dispersed, and if the productive energies of the country should within a reasonable interval find a freer scope, the political horizon would show no token of any influence hostile to the prolonged supremacy of a Conservative Government. This is part of the price we have to pay for peace. And were it not for the serious and constantly accumulating obstructions to popular progress and enlightenment which are the inevitable shadow of Tory triumphs, we might be well content. Peace is worth a great deal. But we freely confess it is the economy of human life and suffering, not the saving of our material resources, which alone reconciles us to the continuance of a Government that takes every opportunity of proving its contempt for free trade, unfettered education, and religious equality. We are prepared for the trumpet tone of jubilation with which the organs of the popular passion of the hour will celebrate the success of a "spirited foreign policy;" and if we think it worth while to scrutinise the value of that success, it is only because it is well that the minority, who still retain political sanity, should be able to give a reason for the faith that is in them, and should also put on record a protest which may have its value at some future day.

What does the announcement in Parliament amount to? Its only value lies in the degree of confirmation it gives to fragments of news telegraphed from the most important centres of European power. Putting together these items, we may regard it as almost certain that means have been found for satisfying the English Government of what Prussia, Austria, and Italy were content to take for granted—that the whole of the Treaty of San Stefano will be submitted for discussion to the proposed Congress. It seems also clear that the demands of the British Government in regard to Bulgaria

—demands made almost entirely in the interests of Turkey—will be received favourably by Russia, on condition that she is not forced to make any great sacrifices in Asia. Again, it seems admitted on all hands that Turkey can no longer be trusted to manage her own affairs without some more or less authoritative superintendence. It will probably be the business of the Congress to devise some method for exercising this supervision without increasing existing jealousies. There are, in addition, some mysterious rumours, which we do not understand, of claims made by our Government to some compensation—it is difficult to say for what—in the shape of a naval station, or stronghold, no one knows exactly where. This, so far as we can understand, is what we have got in return for the expenditure of a sum which, when all accounts are paid, will be little, if any, short of ten millions. Nor is the money cost the greatest. We have brought about what is really a revolution in our military system; we have inflamed the vulgar passion of national ignorance; we have given English Chauvinism a predominant position in politics; we have diverted attention from the perilous position of our own manufactures and commerce—and what have we got in return for all this and ten millions sterling to boot? Is there anything that could not have been secured without all this expenditure and loss? The submission of the whole treaty for discussion ought, according to all ordinary rules of business and common sense, to have been taken as a matter of course. It was implied in the very epithet "preliminary" given by the Russians themselves to their agreement with the Turks. If Russia had refused to discuss any part of it which had a European interest, she would have put herself in the wrong. And if Europe had refused to support us, then would have been the time to consider whether our interests were so much involved as to justify an appeal to arms. There is no reason to suppose that there would have been any difficulty in securing through the Congress any such alterations in the proposed constitution of Bulgaria as might have commended themselves to the judgment of the assembled Powers. With regard to the necessary supervision of Turkey, it is we who have yielded, not Russia; and we might as well have done so at the time of the Berlin Memorandum. In fact, putting aside the shadowy prospect of "compensation," all that we have got for our ten millions is really a permission to begin again just where we broke off some two years ago. We rejected Prince Bismarck's proposals then; we shall accept something very like them now; and we have paid ten million pounds for our conversion, besides incurring inestimable commercial loss. If this is statesmanship we should prefer to be governed by those in whom it is conspicuous by its absence.

But there is a gain undoubtedly secured to Philo-Turk fanaticism; a gain which is shame and loss to the highest life of the nation. England has posed once more as the protector of the licentious chaos called the Turkish Government. Fine professions have no doubt been made by official lips, as to the advantages that are to be secured to their miserable provinces. But everything actually saved out of the wreck has been saved by Turkey; and every alteration proposed in the Treaty of San Stefano, so far as known at once strengthens Turkey—if that were possible—and weakens the Christian populations. Greece has, we fear, been cozened by delusive hopes, and we hear no rumour of any proposal to enlarge her boundaries, or save

her tortured children from oppression. It is impossible that the new arrangement can last. Corruption, intrigue, revolution, will make the Ottoman Porte still the source of disturbances which no external supervision short of absolute domination can repress. New demands for interference will be made upon the head of the Eastern Church; and the final settlement of the Eastern Question, which can be effected only on one condition, will be left as a legacy of perplexity and perhaps worldwide bloodshed to the coming generation. The gallant firmness of Roumania in her attitude towards her imperious ally ought itself to have opened the eyes of the most fanatical Russophobists to the real nature of the check that is required for Russian ambition. Even fools, according to the old proverb, will learn in the school of experience, though at considerable expense. But folly, inspired by insolent pride, like a beggar on horseback, will ride farther than we care to mention.

THE PRIMATE ON THE IRISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

LAST week there was a meeting of the supporters of the Church of Ireland Sustentation Fund at Lambeth Palace, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The tone of his grace and of the other speakers on the occasion was cheerful. One and all expressed their belief that the Episcopal Church in Ireland had entered upon a more active career since the Disestablishment Act of seven years ago, and had a glorious future before it. It is superfluous to point out the importance of the issues involved in this remarkable experiment, though we have no desire to exaggerate the actual results. We are quite ready to admit with the archbishop that seven years' experience hardly suffices for a decisive conclusion, and that considering the prodigal provision made for the life interests of the clergy, the Irish Church can scarcely be regarded as a disestablished Church pure and simple. Still the seven years have produced some significant indications of its probable future.

It may certainly be assumed that the Free Episcopalians of Ireland are not on the road to financial ruin. Seeing that the object of the meeting referred to was to invoke the assistance of English sympathisers, it could not be expected that, on such an occasion, the efforts made by the members of the Irish Church in the way of self-support would be unduly magnified, and the report presented to the meeting only makes the somewhat grudging admission "that some substantial progress has been made in many places during the past year towards remedying the evils brought about by disendowment, and placing the new arrangements of the Church upon a solid and durable basis." From other sources, however, we gather that the committee might have indulged in a somewhat more congratulatory spirit. Up to 1870 Irish Churchmen were rarely called upon to put their hands in their pockets. But disestablishment soon quickened their spirit of self-reliance. As was recently shown by Mr. Fisher, of the Liberation Society, who has specially investigated the whole subject, the total amount raised by Irish Churchmen during the last seven years for the support of their Church was 2,306,000*l.*, being an average of 329,428*l.* annually. Of this amount little more than ten per cent. was contributed in England. The stipends of the poorer clergy have during that period been generally augmented, and that process is still going on, while the Church has been gradually

extending its field of operations. These results are very gratifying, especially in view of the fact mentioned by Canon Jellett that out of a thousand English owners of land in Ireland not more than fifty have subscribed towards the sustenance of the Irish Church.

The position of the Primate at the Lambeth Palace meeting was one of no little embarrassment, and his grace handled the subject with his customary adroitness. The Irish Church has its own legislative body and local synods, in which the laity are largely represented. As the result of much discussion and agitation, that Church has revised its Prayer-book in a Protestant sense, having to a large extent got rid of the Popish element in its liturgy and ceremonial. This was hardly a subject on which the Archbishop of Canterbury could offer his congratulations—for, as the Earl of Courtown reminded the meeting, the English Church has been quite unable to effect such a reform, and we have the abundant testimony of Evangelical clergymen that the prospect of such a revision is hopeless, and that the tendency of Convocation is rather to uphold and extend sacerdotalism. But the Primate was quite ready to admit one manifest result of disestablishment in Ireland. The laity had, he said, got a very powerful influence in the Irish Church. But in the eyes of his grace this is by no means an unmixed advantage.

The laity (he said) are a most important element, but of course they have not been trained in the study of theology, and when you bring the clerical and the lay element together in synods, and when they have to deal with difficult points in those synods, you cannot be quite sure that the preponderating influence will be used in the right manner. Therefore, for my own part, observing that the Church of Ireland, as in every other disestablished Church in the world, the lay element has a great tendency to become the preponderating element, I think it is important that we should not lose sight of the dangers which may possibly arise from that preponderance, as well as the good which will no doubt flow from it. Now, that is one point which has struck me in reference to the disestablished Church of Ireland, that the lay influence is really very great indeed, and that it is not always exercised under the same restraints as have guided it aright in the Established Church to which we in England belong.

In a word, the Archbishop prefers the English system. He did not, however, explain how the influence of the laity, which is thus "guided aright," is exercised in the Anglican Church. It certainly is not represented in Convocation, which is purely a clerical body, nor did he venture to assert that the Church laity are adequately represented by Parliament; for the clergy are doing their utmost to cast off legislative control. If lay influence in the English Church were a perceptible quantity, why are Church Associations needed to protect lay rights, and what power, spite of the Public Worship Act, have the laity to check the vagaries of the clergy, or to curb those Ritualistic excesses which the whole bench of bishops protest against, but are powerless to "put down"? Is it not notorious that the State Church of England is helpless and disorganised for want of that reforming and controlling influence which the lay element would introduce, and which acts with such wholesome effect in the self-governed Church of Ireland? That Church is now Protestant in its constitution, thanks solely to lay intervention, and probably the vast majority of Churchmen in this country would be thankful if a similar process could be brought about on this side St. George's Channel. But, curiously enough, Archbishop Tait gives up the case when he looks at the actual results in Ireland, for he says:—

I admit that the fruits which have been produced in the Irish Church have been, on the whole, entirely satisfactory. I believe that good has arisen from what has been done. The clergy of that Church have had a most difficult work to perform, and they have been well supported by the laity. I think that if the Church of Ireland acts in that manner she will surmount all the difficulties that stand in her way, and that, with God's blessing, she may proceed on her way feeling that no power will ever be able to prevail against her.

Here, then, we have the important admission on the part of the Primate of the Anglican Church—a Church which enjoys no independent action—that the self-government which the Irish Episcopal Church enjoys has thus far been "entirely satisfactory" in its results.

It is not easy to exaggerate the importance of this immediate result of disestablishment in Ireland, and the Primate, with his usual cleverness, called the attention of the High-Church

clergy, who are seeking freedom from the trammels of the State, to the fact. The action of the Church laity in Ireland has, in a perfectly legal form, provided an effectual safeguard against the advance of superstition and the exclusive claims of a priestly order. While the clergy of the Anglican Church are becoming more and more a caste and asserting their supernatural claims, because there is no lay authority to check them, Irish Episcopalians, because they can exercise a powerful curb upon sacerdotal pretensions, have the prospect of freer development, and of being able to preserve a healthy Protestantism in a Roman Catholic country. Archbishop Tait fears that the lay element will become preponderant in the Irish Church. If so, it will only be when the clergy have lost their legitimate influence. When his grace lays so much stress upon the social status of the clergy, and the necessity of providing them with incomes independent of their flocks, he seems to us to be encouraging those fallacious ideas which enervate a Church in the prosecution of its spiritual work, and hamper it as a missionary agency.

In other portions of his speech the Archbishop of Canterbury denied that disestablishment had in other respects produced those benefits to the Irish community which were anticipated by its promoters. He complains that the Presbyterians and other Protestant bodies are not more ready to unite with members of the disestablished Church "in works which concern the benefit and prosperity of Ireland." We are surprised at such an allegation. The same complaint comes from the other side. It has been repeatedly said that the Irish Episcopalians held aloof as much as they did eight or ten years ago from co-operation with other denominations, and that their exclusive claims and jealousy are the real obstacles to united action in the interests of Protestant Christianity.

While unable to withhold his approval of the results which have flowed from the introduction of the lay element in the Irish Church, his grace, by way of warning to his Irish brethren, and in order to deprecate such a change in England, was pleased to advert to the supposed danger of pastors being pecuniarily dependent on their flocks. He remarked:—

Why, what is the case amongst our Dissenting brethren here in England? Who are these deacons who would seem to be far more important people in their own body than the bishops of the Church of England are in theirs? Many of them, no doubt, are most respectable and respected persons amongst the Dissenting bodies in England, but they are not men of very high education, and they are engaged in honourable but not very exalted occupations. These persons really govern the Dissenting bodies in England. The Wesleyan ministers have made a strong and determined effort—their wise founder saw what was likely to be the case in all Dissenting bodies—to maintain their independence; but I think that if you observe a body of Dissenting ministers either in this country or elsewhere, you will find that they cannot stand against the lay-deacons and the lay-managers.

We are astonished that a prelate so generally well informed as Archbishop Tait could give utterance to such nonsense, which, we suppose, he has either picked up in Mrs. Oliphant's novels, or has been earwigged by some one who has found sufficient reason to abandon Nonconformity. The charge is belied by all experience, except in the case of a few rural Nonconformist churches. To say nothing of their union assemblies, whether Congregational, Baptist, or Wesleyan—where the ministers, always in an immense majority, invariably take the lead, and the lay members only echo their sentiments—the great majority of Nonconformist pastors would, we are bold to say, testify that his grace's charge is an absurd myth—the outcome of a preconceived theory, which is utterly opposed to patent facts. In nine-tenths of Dissenting churches the ministers exercise an influence and unquestioned ascendancy in their own sphere which is rarely called in question, and is the natural result of their superior knowledge, ability, devotion, and moral influence. That there are exceptions does not invalidate but prove the rule. If his grace knew aught of the annual meetings referred to, he would discover how egregiously he had been misinformed, and that Nonconformist ministers enjoy the full measure of their legitimate authority.

We scarcely expect the Primate of the Anglican Establishment to look with less prejudice upon the working of the Irish disestablished Church than upon the status of Nonconformist churches around him. Else he would find in the present position of that Church—its growing liberality, its reformed Prayer-book, its freedom from Romish practices, its abolition of the sale of livings, the increased incomes of its clergy, and the influence exercised by the laity in the decisions of their synods and the choice of their ministers—an abundant reason for looking forward without apprehension to the time when his own Church, now torn with intestine divisions and the prey of innumerable scandals, will become emancipated from the control of the State, and able to develop her own inherent vitality in her own proper sphere.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE.

THE debate which ended on Thursday night with a majority of 121 for the Government was one of those in which the arguments are all on one side and the votes on the other. Indeed, we gather that many of the most slavish supporters of the Ministry were glad of the assurance that the amendment meant very much the same thing as the resolution. Still the indisputable fact remains that a large majority of Parliament refused to endorse what one of the Ministers called a truism, lest it should be damaging to the Government. It would, however, be a total misunderstanding of the real position of affairs to infer that Parliament has become indifferent to the guarantees of Constitutional freedom. On this point we shall have a word to say presently. Meantime we may quote in support of our view one of the most effective utterances of Mr. Gladstone's speech of Tuesday evening—"The vote of the majority will have a vast importance. . . . but whatever its importance may be, it will dash like the idle wave against the rock, when it comes into conflict with the fixed hereditary liberties of the British nation."

The speech from which these words are quoted was one of the greatest even Mr. Gladstone has ever delivered. It is no depreciation of the rest of the debate to say that it stood out like the Parthenon above the glories of Athens. It is a speech that will live when the idle sentiments of the hour have become a forgotten dream. In the previous course of the discussion a great deal had been made of the Bill of Rights; opposite speakers discussing its terms as though the whole fabric of British liberties depended on the logical construction of its sentences. Mr. Gladstone was the first to announce the real truth, which is almost the reverse of what had been previously assumed. British liberties do not rest upon the Bill of Rights; it is much more correct to say that the Bill of Rights rests on British liberties. In other words, if England had not been a free country, the Bill of Rights could never have been passed. And it was passed, not to constitute those liberties, but to declare them. The declaration was made for a momentary, or at any rate for a special purpose. But it is not on that account to be supposed to limit by its terms the common law on which it was founded. There was no occasion in 1689 to be jealous of the rights of the Crown in any foreign dependencies, and, therefore, it never occurred to the promoters of the Bill to define the word "kingdom" so as to make it certain that they included all British dominions. But Mr. Gladstone proved unanswerably by the case of the North American colonies, now the United States, that the maintenance of a standing army in any dependency without the consent of Parliament was regarded as unconstitutional according to the common law. He also showed by the case of the French indemnity in 1816 that the right of Parliament to control the numbers of the army does not depend on the necessity for voting supplies. On that occasion the power of the Crown to apply the indemnity to the payment of troops not granted by Parliament was distinctly challenged and was as unequivocally abjured. Thus on

every point that had been made by the Attorney-General in favour of the Imperial system now inaugurated, Mr. Gladstone refuted him by reference to undoubted authorities or to indisputable legal precedents. Mr. Forster showed his estimate of the importance of the issue raised by coming down to the House when scarcely convalescent from his recent accident, and obliged to support himself on crutches while speaking. Under these circumstances his words were necessarily few, but they were weighty. He urged—what however has been said by others—that our assumption of the position of a great military power in addition to the naval supremacy which is our traditional boast, cannot possibly be without the gravest influence on the attitude and the policy of other European nations. And it does seem a mockery of self-government that questions of such serious and permanent import should be settled without the slightest attempt to consult Parliament, and by the mere action of the royal prerogative. On the other side, there was little or no argument beyond a verbal criticism of the Bill of Rights, and an insistence that the emergency was just one of those occasions contemplated in the Act for the Government of India, and requiring both swiftness and secrecy. The weakness of the former defence was exposed by Mr. Gladstone; as to the latter, Mr. Fawcett showed that the only reason for secrecy vouchsafed to the House was the frivolous one given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the publication of the intended movement would have raised the cost of transport.

What, then, are we to say to the fact that the House of Commons has declined to commit itself to the reassertion of a plain Constitutional maxim, commonly regarded as one of the most important guarantees of our hereditary liberties? Does it follow that the House is indifferent to those liberties, or in favour of a return to Elizabethan despotism? We should be sorry to think so even of the worst Parliament within our recollection. It is not to be forgotten that in England abstract principles never have been allowed directly to affect the course of legislation. The power of the House of Commons is based not on general principles, but on historic precedents, and it has been enlarged from time to time not by any theory of human rights, but by impatience under the pressure of actual grievances. When those grievances were removed, the jealousy of the House has always been more or less relaxed, but it has only required a slight touch of the same spur to rouse it into watchfulness and wrath again. On this occasion the House of Commons has refused to affirm Lord Hartington's resolution, not from any objection to the principle stated, but simply because the prerogative of the Crown has been stretched for the accomplishment of an act which the House by a large majority approves. But if at any future time any Ministry were encouraged by a mistaken interpretation of this precedent to stretch the prerogatives of the Crown against the opinion of the majority of the House, it would very soon be seen how true were Mr. Gladstone's words, that the precedent would be "like an idle wave" against the fixed hereditary liberties of the British nation. We are scarcely in danger of any Imperial despotism in England. What is really to be feared is such a change in popular opinion as to the relations of England and India as would convert what has been professedly a civilising mission into the means of national arrogance and selfish aggrandisement. Such a temptation if yielded to will most seriously affect the future, not only of Great Britain, but of the world.

THE POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF NONCONFORMISTS.

THE Duke of Westminster has been as much impressed as Mr. Gladstone and Canon Liddon with the action of, and the influence exerted by, the Nonconformists throughout the crisis, or series of crises, occasioned by the Eastern Question. Speaking last week at the laying of the memorial stone of a Congregational school and

manse at Mold, the Duke said that if the peace of Europe should be maintained, "it would be in great measure owing to the zealous advocacy of it by Nonconformists." And if anything had been needed to emphasise the statement it would have been furnished by the remarkable demonstration of Scottish Nonconformist opinion which occurred three days later; when an address of thanks was presented to Mr. Gladstone, signed by 1,615 ministers of the several Scottish Nonconformist bodies—being within 135 of the total number of such ministers.

There has, we think, been nothing in modern times of which more honourable mention is likely to be made by future historians than the part Nonconformists have played throughout this exciting and critical period. They have often been described, by those who know but little of either their spirit or their acts, as being split up into numerous sects, each selfishly bent on pursuing strictly sectarian objects, or else as being united only by a common antipathy to the Church Establishment. They have been charged with using their political power for narrow and unpatriotic ends; if not with being absolutely incapable of taking broad, national views of questions of imperial interest. Yet the testimony of history is of a uniformly opposite character. When Hume, writing of the Tudor period, declared that "the precious spark of liberty had been kindled, and was preserved, by the Puritans alone," and that to them "the English owe the whole freedom of their constitution"—when Fox said that in the rebellions of 1715 and 1745 the Dissenters "had acted with the spirit and fidelity of British subjects, zealous and vigilant in defence of the Constitution," and "their exertions were so magnanimous that to their endeavours we owed the preservation of Church and State"—when Burke admitted that, if they had once destroyed, more than once they had saved both—when Lord Russell said, "I know the Dissenters: they carried the Reform Bill; they carried the abolition of slavery; they carried Free-trade"—these eminent men simply affirmed in other forms, and in relation to other circumstances, substantially what has been lately acknowledged by those who have been struck with the unanimity and the passionate energy with which Nonconformists of all shades have protested against an unjust and needless war, and have insisted that the weight of British influence should be thrown into the scale of liberty, of justice, and of humanity.

The disinterestedness of their action in relation to this matter, at least, cannot be questioned; for it is not one which affects in any degree their own principles or position. As Nonconformists simply, they are not concerned in the corruption and cruelties of the Turks, nor in the aspirations of Russia. Unlike the High Church party, their sympathies are not quickened by any regard for the Greek Church and its members. They might, were they as selfish as some suppose them to be, have reserved all their energies for an agitation which seems for a time to be overshadowed by the exigencies of European politics. But they have, in fact, thrown themselves into the movement for securing a pacific, a just, and a lasting settlement of the Eastern Question with an unreservedness and an ardour which could not be surpassed. And yet this has not been the result of any preconceived design, or any elaborate organisation. They have naturally used their own special machinery for making known, and insisting upon, their views in regard to what they deem a grave national emergency; but they have, at the same time, been ready to unite with all classes of their fellow-citizens animated by the same sentiment, and aiming at the same results. If, as a consequence, the strenuous opposition encountered by the Government during the last few months has been strongly tinged by Nonconformist feeling, it has not been because numerous Churchmen have not been moving in the same direction; but because Churchmen have been divided and Nonconformists have been, speaking broadly, unanimous, and have not been restrained by the influence of either institutions or traditions. Churchmen have, no

doubt, spoken as decidedly and acted as resolutely as Nonconformists; but they have done so in their individual, and not in their collective capacities. The Episcopate, the Convocations, the various clerical and other bodies belonging to the Church of England, have all been, so far as we can remember, absolutely dumb amid the stir and strife by which the country has lately been agitated. And the fact excites very little surprise, just because it accords with all the Church's past traditions. The clergy, and that portion of the laity which takes any interest in Church affairs, are expected to be agitated by questions relating to vestments and lights, to confession, to Lord Penzance and his Court, and to the maintenance of their burial monopoly; but everybody would be surprised if they displayed corresponding interest in vital questions affecting the destinies of either our own or other nations. Yet the fact is not to be attributed to a lack of humanity, or of patriotism, on the part of the clergy and their adherents. It is due to the inertia, the timidity, or the extreme caution which inevitably belong to a great and antiquated institution, known to be out of harmony with the wants of the times, and likely to suffer further injury from the too great activity of its members.

We have no doubt that many thoughtful minds have been exercised by what at first sight may appear a phenomenal difference between the attitude of the unestablished and the established bodies in regard to this great controversy. One result, however undesigned, will, we expect, be seen in an increased degree of respect shown by other sections of the Liberal party towards that which is now admitted to be the most earnest and best organised section of the party. In that respect there has been, we admit, much improvement in recent years. So much was admitted by the Duke of Westminster, when he humorously said that he remembered that, "as a Whig baby, he used to regard Dissenters as being as bad as murderers, and Dissenting chapels as dens of iniquity, to be shunned, and if it were necessary to pass them, to do so as quickly as possible." Sydney Smith, speaking of a still earlier period, put the thing more grotesquely when he said that "when a country squire hears of an ape, his first feeling is to give it nuts and apples; when he hears of a Dissenter, his immediate impulse is to commit it to the county gaol; to shave its head, to alter its customary food, and to have it privately whipped." We have advanced since that time, and the Whig babes of to-day have other notions respecting Dissent than those described by the Duke of Westminster.

Let us hope that when the babes become men there will be no Dissenters left, to be either despised, or carefully handled; but that Dissent will have vanished, because the Establishment will have vanished, and the differences between religious men will be less invidiously marked than they now are. Living in that hope, Nonconformists may well be encouraged by recent recognitions of their power, and of the good use which they make of it. Having been faithful in little, they have had their reward, and being faithful in regard to larger opportunities and yet greater strength, they will earn hereafter gratitude for other, and even more valuable, services than they have hitherto been able to render to the highest interests of mankind.

THE MICROPHONE.

WHITE the first half of this century will ever be famous as a great era of scientific discovery; new additions to natural knowledge of vast importance having been made by Davy, Young, Faraday, and others in this country and elsewhere, the last half of the century bids fair to be equally famous for the wonderful applications of those discoveries which are now crowding upon us. We are in fact passing through one of the most extraordinary epochs of scientific invention, especially as regards electrical appliances, which the world has ever witnessed. Hardly had we recovered our breath from the wonders of the articulating electric telephone, described in these columns at the beginning of the year, when the phonograph burst upon us—our readers will

remember the still recent description of this instrument which we gave—and now there appears the *microphone*, a telephonic arrangement of the utmost simplicity, but which is nevertheless even more wonderful in its achievements than any of its predecessors. For not only is it capable of transmitting articulate sounds, but, furthermore, it gathers up the faintest sonorous vibration, converts it into an electrical quiver, which—transmitted, it may be, a hundred miles—is at the distant receiving instrument once more transmitted into sound; and, *mirabile dictu!* the sound there heard may be considerably louder than that which originated the electrical quiver. So sensitive is this instrument to the faintest trembling that the present writer has heard the lightest possible passage of a camel's hair brush across the table sound like a vigorous scraping in the receiving instrument. Even the footsteps of a fly can be readily heard by this means!

This last discovery is due to Professor Hughes, the inventor of the type-printing telegraph, an instrument wherein many varied and subtle movements are co-ordinated to the determined end with a regularity of recurrence which is the perfection of precision. The microphone has, it is true, another claimant for its discovery in a Mr. W. L. Scott, who, by a totally different process of inquiry was ultimately led to adopt an arrangement very similar to that which Professor Hughes was the first to publish. Mr. Scott calls his arrangement the *magnophone*, but its object and principle is the same as the microphone. Neither of these words, however, quite correctly describes the instrument, which might be called a minute-sounds-detector.

Those who have been in the habit of using the telephone know very well that it is keenly sensitive to the smallest electrical disturbance. In fact, the readiness with which it detects variations in the strength of an electric current is one of the chief drawbacks in the use of this instrument. It was this property of the telephone which led the present writer to state in a paper he read before the Royal Dublin Society towards the close of last year, that "in physical research the telephone promises to be the starting-point of new investigations, and as a delicate phonoscope, or sound test, it will doubtless be most useful. It reveals the existence of very feeble electric currents by the audible vibration of its iron disc. So prompt and sensitive is it to the slightest fluctuation in the strength of the current traversing its coil that it is not unlikely it may be of use in searching out rapid and feeble variations in a current that may otherwise escape detection." It was this property of the telephone that led Mr. Hughes to employ it for the purpose of investigating the electrical changes which might occur in a wire, subject to sonorous vibrations.

No effect was noticed when the wire, as a whole, was thrown into vibration, until, by accident, the wire broke, when immediately "a peculiar rush or sound was heard." And here we may quote from a paper presented to the Royal Society of London by Mr. Hughes on May 8 last:—"I then sought to imitate the condition of the wire at the moment of rupture by replacing the broken ends and pressing them together with a constant and varying force by the application of weights. It was found that if the broken ends rested upon one another with a slight pressure of not more than one ounce to the square inch on the joints, sounds were distinctly reproduced, although the effects were very imperfect. It was soon found that it was not at all necessary to join two wires end-wise together to reproduce sound, but that any portion of an electric conductor would do so even when fastened to a board or to a table, and no matter how complicated the structure upon this board, or the materials used as a conductor, provided one or more portions of the electrical conductor were separated and only brought into contact by a slight but constant pressure. Thus, if the ends of the wire terminate in two common nails laid side by side, and are separated from each other by a slight space, were electrically connected by laying a similar nail between them, sound could be reproduced. The effect was improved by building up the nails log-hut fashion, into a square configuration, using ten or twenty nails. A piece of steel watch-chain acted well. Up to this point the sound or grosser vibrations were alone produced, the finer inflections were missing, or, in other words, the *timbre* of the voice was wanting, but in the following experiments the *timbre* became more and more perfect until it reached a perfection leaving nothing to be desired."

The experiments which led to the result consisted in the employment of metallic particles in the path of the electric circuit. All metals were found equally sensitive, provided the state of division was fine enough, and the material used did not oxidise by contact with the air. Thus

platinum and mercury gave excellent and unvarying results. It must be understood that the arrangement consists, first, of the sound transmitted—which, as we have seen, may be a couple of nails with a coin laid across them; next, of a small battery for generating the current, joined by conducting wires, on the one hand, to the foregoing transmitter, and, on the other, to an ordinary telephone which may be in any distant locality. Ultimately, Mr. Hughes was led to adopt a transmitter consisting of a little pencil of carbon containing mercury in its finely-divided state. "I took," says Mr. Hughes, "a piece of the willow charcoal used by artists for sketching, heating it gradually to a white heat and then suddenly plunging it in mercury. The vacua in the pores, caused by the sudden cooling, become filled with innumerable minute globules of mercury, thus, as it were, holding the mercury in a fine state of division." Two or three small fragments of charcoal so prepared were enclosed in a glass tube, wire being detached to the terminal pieces, which pressed the other fragments closely together. Another form which answers very well consists simply in a lozenge-shaped piece of gas carbon—i.e., coke from the inside of the retort—supported vertically in a little coke cup at both ends, into which the wires were attached. Doubtless a small piece of lead-pencil, cut at both ends and similarly supported, would answer very well. In fact, anyone can make a little microphone in a few minutes if the necessary adjuncts of a small battery and telephone be at hand. At present the transmission of speech is perhaps not quite so clearly articulate as by the use of two telephones. No doubt modifications in the construction of the microphone will largely augment its capabilities. Its superiority to the telephone consists in its not requiring the speaker to talk into the instrument itself. Whistling or speaking a few feet away from the instrument is even better than closer approach. Mr. Hughes states that "if held in the hand, several feet from a piano, the whole chords—the highest as well as the lowest—can be distinctly heard at a distance. If one person sings a song, the distant station, provided with a similar transmitter, can sing and speak at the same time, and the sounds will be received loud enough for the person singing to follow the second speech or song sent from the distant end."

What the future possibilities of this instrument may be we will not venture to predict. Mr. Scott, with his "magnophone," has stated that he has heard the crystallisation of various salts when the instrument was immersed in their solutions. In medical investigations it is quite possible new lines of discovery may be opened out by its means, but in physical inquiry it will unquestionably be of larger service. We must, however, be on our guard against indulging any such wild speculations as our usually sober-minded contemporary, the *Spectator*, gave way to in its last number; wherein will be found an article on the microphone that furnishes a striking example of a truly unscientific "use of the imagination."

W. F. BARRETT.

THE BURIALS QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT.

As already explained in our columns, there have for some time been two bills before the House of Commons, introduced by Conservative members, with the view of settling this much-vexed question. That brought in by Mr. Ritchie is very liberal in its details, only it makes consent to a burial in the parish churchyard with any other than the Church of England service dependent on the consent of the incumbent. Mr. Balfour's bill, on the other hand, ignores "the parson of the parish"—that is, it concedes the principle contended for by Mr. Osborne Morgan, but fences it round with serious restrictions. The concession of the freedom of burial is, however, so obnoxious to the High-Church party that a Tory member had given notice that he should oppose it. The question whether it would be more expedient for Liberals to divide against the last-named measure on the second reading, or to reserve their opposition for committee, has been set at rest by Mr. Balfour himself, who has dropped his bill. Mr. Ritchie has also dropped his bill. Such, at least, is the statement made in the "Votes and Proceedings," though we believe it might be possible to resuscitate each of these bills. But the presumption is that both have been withdrawn for the present session. Unless, therefore, the House of Lords, following last year's precedent, should be disposed to take up the question before the session expires, we shall probably hear no more of such ingenious compromises till next year—if indeed the present Parliament be destined to survive till 1879.

There is still, however, a small and mischievous measure, brought in under the auspices of Mr. Monk and Mr. Forsyth, to amend "The Consecration of Churchyards Act of 1867." Its object is to permit the conveyance of additional land adjoining a churchyard for the purpose of adding it to the burial-ground, and it is provided that such portion as is unconsecrated shall, as in cemeteries, be marked off by a boundary (whether a pathway, stone mark, or fence), and be subject to the control of the incumbent and churchwardens of the parish, who are to exercise in respect to it the powers of a burial board. Though the scheme will not entail much public expense, its aim is to perpetuate existing sectarian distinctions; and its effect will be to give a new endorsement and further extension of the rights of the incumbent. Though but a small, tinkering measure, its tendency is in the wrong direction. The second reading was, however, pushed through *sub silentio* after midnight on Monday. We trust it will not be allowed to pass the further stages without that adequate discussion which its promoters appear inclined to burke. If the Consecration of Churchyards Act (1867) Amendment Bill be allowed to become the law of the land, it is easy to see that at some future time Mr. Osborne Morgan will be met with the plea, that a partial remedy for his grievance has been provided by this little sectarian measure, which is in reality intended to perpetuate the clerical monopoly of the parish burial ground, and intensify distinctions at the grave.

SCOTTISH CHURCH NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

GLASGOW.

The General Assembly of the Free Church met in Glasgow on the 23rd. It is not usual for the Supreme Court of this Church to go out of Edinburgh in May. But a magnificent set of new halls have recently been completed in the metropolis of the west, and it occurred to a number of influential men in the neighbourhood of these halls that as suitable accommodation had thus been provided for the meetings of an ecclesiastical court much good might be done in various ways if the Free Church would agree to hold its annual convocation there. An invitation to that effect was accordingly given, accompanied by the assurance that all the needed outlay would be met, and that provision would be made for the entertainment of the members. And, to make a long story short, the result is that the General Assembly is here.

It must be confessed that the halls look a good deal better than they feel. The principal apartment is capable of seating 3,500 people, and is a splendid looking place—especially when it is filled to its utmost capacity, as it was on Thursday, when the Assembly opened, and several times since. But it is somewhat draughty, and its acoustics are by no means perfect.

The Moderator or President is Dr. Andrew Bonar, a venerable man, who is at once an excellent Biblical scholar, and a pre-eminently earnest and evangelical minister. He has not much knowledge of business forms, but that is of small consequence, because the house is really directed by the two clerks, Sir Henry Moncrieff and Dr. Wilson, who are both personally men of high position, and whose acquaintance with points of order is simply perfect.

Dr. Begg is here of course, and is apparently in a very bad humour. He and his party have been cut to the quick by the conduct of the Presbyteries throughout the country, in denouncing their trafficking with the Government; and on the very first day they tried to prevent the overtures from being taken up on the ground that they were incompetent. Not succeeding in what they attempted then, they repeated the effort next day, in connection with an appeal to the Assembly. But they were signally defeated in their object. By a vote of 263 to 43 the Assembly declared that they were perfectly competent, and a distinct snub was thus given to the "Constitutionalists" at the outset. But they had laid the matter far too deeply to heart to acquiesce cheerfully in the decision; and a long and insolently-worded protest was read by Dr. Begg at the close of the proceedings. The protest was so bad that Sir Henry Moncrieff objected to its being received without consideration, and it will be taken up again. Some wonder was expressed at Dr. Begg insisting on dividing the House when he knew he and his friends would be nowhere in the vote. But the Doctor is far too astute a man to do anything without a reason. His policy is worthy of imitation in Parliament on the part of our disorganised Liberal party. He aims at the

disciplining of his band. He wishes to accustom them to defeat, and so to commit them to their position as that they shall not be afraid to testify in regard to anything. My only doubt is as to whether his party has not sunk so far in numbers and influence as to make its exposure to the public gaze rather demoralising in its effects. Such men as Dr. Thomas Smith, Mr. Main, &c., were conspicuous by their absence, and in the division list of forty-three no name appears that is recognisable by the public except that of Dr. John Kennedy, of Dingwall. It is more and more clearly seen that the Anti-Union party has become a ridiculous rump, and the equanimity with which the rage of Dr. Begg and his friends was regarded by the house was too manifest to be pleasant to those who have any lingering belief in them.

But the great business of the Assembly—at least, of the earlier part of it—has been the Smith case. I write now from the hall (Monday), which, large as it is, is crowded to the ceiling by the immense number of people who are interested in it. The case is now pretty well known. Mr. Smith has published opinions upon the inspiration and construction of Scripture, which are regarded by many as either heretical in themselves or dangerous in their tendency. His own Presbytery (that of Aberdeen) has, however, cleared him by majorities of both charges, and now the question raised is whether the Supreme Court is to affirm or reverse the decision. It is highly probable that the whole of this day and the greater part of to-morrow will be occupied with the process. I am afraid I shall not have time to give you the result in a letter, but if there is any chance of reaching you before going to press I will send notice of what happens by telegraph.

At present a foolish man is making a speech from the bar about a small point in the construction of the libel; whether the word used should be "subvert" or "contradict," and the house listens with great impatience. Happily he finishes, and has no followers on that line. But the ship does not therefore get clear away. Various questions are raised as to the order of procedure, and it is half-past two o'clock before the Assembly gets fairly into the merits.

It is then announced that the following parties appear at the bar:—Principal Brown, Mr. Selbie, Mr. Bannatyne, Mr. Mitchell, Professor Salmond, Mr. Iverach, Mr. Masson, Dr. Longmuir, and Dr. Gordon for the Presbytery, and Professor Smith for himself. There are seven counts, and these are to be discussed separately.

The first point relates to the antiquity and Divine authority of the Aaronic priesthood. Mr. Smith is accused of teaching that that priesthood was not instituted by God in the time of Moses, and that those passages in the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, which represent it as having been so instituted, were not inserted in the record till long after the death of Moses. Principal Brown led off by arguing that this is a true accusation, and that in teaching as represented Professor Smith is guilty of heresy. Mr. Iverach replies, contesting both propositions. He says that Mr. Smith's views are not properly stated in the libel, and that, whether or no, it is lawful for him to hold under the Confession of Faith what he is charged with teaching! Professor Smith himself follows in the same line. He speaks fluently, and is listened to with great attention, and is frequently applauded. But his voice is unpleasant, and his manner a little wanting in modesty and dignity. His bodily presence is not imposing, but he is excessively clever, and he is arguing his case with amazing smartness. It is considered, however, not very wise in him to discourse at large as he is doing. He is lecturing the Assembly, and that in a tone which would be more suitable to his class-room. After hearing the bar, the Assembly agrees to delay judgment on the point discussed until the second count has been considered. The second count is cognate to the first. It charges Professor Smith with denying the historical character of Deuteronomy, and attributing it to a writer of a much later date than Moses, who presented in dramatic form the laws and institutions as Mosaic, although Moses had personally nothing whatever to do with them. Principal Brown is again arguing for conviction, but the dinner-hour is drawing near, and it is not likely that the case will proceed much farther before the adjournment.

Assembly Hall, 8.30 p.m.

The Assembly has been sitting for the last hour and a half after its adjournment, listening to the pleadings on the second count. Professor Salmond has argued that the charge is not relevant, and now

Professor Smith himself is again on his legs giving his reasons for believing the authorship of Deuteronomy to be non-Mosaic, and contending that, in holding the opinions he does on this point, he is within the teaching of the Confession. He is speaking, as before, with great ease and fluency, and he is listened to with the utmost patience and respect. But he is not making much of it. I do not know how to explain it, but his arguments are not taking hold. It is by no means clear what he is driving at; and I fear his appeal will not have much effect on the votes. One thing which he said did make some impression. He confessed that if he had guessed that his article on the Bible would have produced so much suspicion of his teaching he would have taken care to have explained his real position more carefully.

Principal Brown replies, and does so remarkably well, arguing that Deuteronomy is either a contemporary history or it is not a believable history.

Parties having been removed, Sir Henry Moncrieff proceeded to move, in regard to the first count, that the first particular in it be found not relevant, very much because, from the explanations given, it appeared that Professor Smith's views had not been adequately stated in the libel. This motion was seconded by the Rev. J. Phillips, of St. John's, Edinburgh. An amendment affirming its relevancy was proposed by Sheriff Cowan, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Spence; but the feeling in favour of Sir Henry's motion was so manifest that the amendment was not pressed.

Sir H. Moncrieff gave notice that he would move that the relevancy of the second count be sustained, and Dr. Rainy intimated he would move the contrary.

(By Telegraph.)

Sir H. Moncrieff's motion condemning Professor Smith was carried over Principal Rainy's by a majority of 301 against 278 votes.

WOMEN HOUSEHOLDERS' SUFFRAGE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The National Society for securing the Parliamentary Franchise for female Householders have usually held their annual public meeting in London just after the debate on their bill in the House of Commons, and, as the speakers subjected the debaters to criticism of a very searching and amusing kind, the proceedings had about them a piquancy which made them very entertaining, as well as a means of advancing the cause they were intended to promote. But then, *per contra*, the meetings came too late to influence the debate on the bill, and for parliamentary purposes were of little utility. I suppose that for this reason the ladies resolved to change their tactics this session, and so the meeting at St. George's Hall was held last Thursday night; while the second reading of their bill stands for the 19th of June.

There was not such a crowd as on some former occasions, and, for that reason, there was more quietness and better behaviour. The speaking was good—as it invariably is at these meetings—but not so smart and clever as at some previous meetings; the leaders of the movement appearing to get more serious, and more practical, as time goes on without their fully attaining their object. Not that they are despairing or depressed; on the contrary, they declare themselves to be satisfied with the undoubted progress they have made and confident of ultimate success.

Mr. Hibbert, M.P., was chairman, and though he said that that was the first time he had opened his mouth in advocacy of the movement, he has been its steady friend; and one of the speakers called attention to the fact that he it was who induced the House of Commons to give the municipal franchise to women householders. He dealt effectively, if not fluently, with the objections urged against the demand made, and in the course of his speech said that as many as 200 members of the House of Commons had declared themselves to be in favour of giving the franchise to women.

The first resolution was moved by the wife of Mr. Fawcett, M.P., in a brief but pointed speech. One of her pleas was that women were the most law-abiding part of the community; since criminal statistics showed that they were four times less criminal than men! Referring to the progress made, she naturally congratulated the meeting on the fact that the question of the granting of medical degrees to women was now nearly settled; while good schools for girls were everywhere being provided, and they had the benefits of University examinations, and of Girton and

Newnham Colleges. Mrs. Fawcett made use of Mr. Bright's and Mr. Forster's appeal to women to use their influence in the cause of peace, and said that that influence ought to be direct and not indirect. She closed by expressing an earnest hope that women would not only endeavour to obtain the franchise, but aim at excellence in everything which they undertook, and in the discharge of all their duties.

Mr. Hopwood, M.P., who followed, made a speech which happily mingled argument and humour. He alluded to the bill for abolishing actions for breach of promise of marriage, as one of the matters which Parliament was going to deal with without reference to the wishes of women in the matter. He also ridiculed the objection to women acquiring medical knowledge on grounds of delicacy; when the services of women as nurses were not only allowed but highly appreciated.

Miss Tod, an Irish lady, who, as a speaker, has a highly literary style, supported the resolution and spoke in an historic vein. She said it had taken a very long time for large masses of men to obtain the franchise, and therefore it was not strange that it should be but slowly conceded to women. She also referred to the part which women had taken in great national struggles for liberty in past times, and said that they had been brought up under the influence of the same traditions as their male relatives. At present they were powerless where their influence was most needed, because their influence was indirect only. Among other grievances from which they suffered was the law relating to the custody of children, and she gave a very striking case in point.

Mr. Hare, whose name is connected with the representation of minorities, also spoke, but briefly, and too low to be heard. Then a Mr. Hale moved an amendment, in a feeble speech, in which he talked in the usual fashion about women becoming masculine and neglecting their duties, and said that they had very little to complain of. Only about half-a-dozen people voted with him.

The second and last resolution was proposed by Miss Becker, who made some good points. She alluded to the trade struggle going on in Lancashire, where the female operatives were very properly allowed to vote in the ballot. She pointed to the Chantrelle case, where a wife was murdered because she remained with her husband only that she might be with her children. Of the concession of medical degrees to women, she said that its potential effect could not be fully estimated; for it would have a highly stimulating influence, and involved an accession of influence to the whole sex. She censured the Home Secretary for not receiving a deputation relative to the employment of women in factories, and closed by a very happy illustration drawn from the new instrument, the microphone. As that instrument made it possible to hear sounds too low to have been ever heard before, so the admission of women to the franchise would act as a Parliamentary microphone; making audible the undertones of weakness and suffering to which Parliament was now deaf, and so secure the doing of right and justice.

Professor Hodgson packed into a short speech an admirable *exposé* of the futility of some of the objections urged on the other side. He urged that what women needed was greater elevation of view—an enlargement of their interests, and a greater sense of responsibility in regard to public matters, and by giving attention to politics they would help to secure what they lacked in these respects.

Miss Downing—an Irish young lady—spoke with a good deal of point and pungency, not to say tartness. She thought that men were not to be convinced by logic in this matter, or Mr. Mill would have convinced them. She replied to Mr. Hale, and said that if women cared more for politics, perhaps their husbands would spend more of their time at home and less at their clubs. She appealed to women to add to their charms the attractions of intellectual culture, and, speaking for herself, said that she could say that her experience in connection with this agitation had made her more thoughtful, and more considerate in regard to the wants and sufferings of others.

At this point another amendment was moved; but nothing very effective was said in its support, and it was soon outvoted, and then a vote of thanks to the chairman closed a well-sustained and not too protracted meeting.

It is announced that Mrs. George Cruikshank is to enjoy a continuation of her late husband's pension of 95*l.* a year.

Man is often driven to desperation with his own hobby horses, and is sometimes carried to the verge of despair by his own nightmares.

Literature.

GEORGE MOORE.*

There are two chief elements in every good subject for the biographer. These are, growth of character and variety of outward surroundings. Mr. Smiles has found in George Moore so marked a development of the former as to compensate in a great degree for some lack in the latter element. Mr. Smiles tells us that, when he consulted a leading merchant in the City on the possibility of writing anything of interest about George Moore, he received for answer that many men had been as munificent as he was, and for the rest, "what can you make out of the life of a London warehouseman?" That merchant was in one sense right enough; he believed only in the interests that lie in incident, action, and striking outward changes; those again who from the first were firm in their belief that Mr. Smiles could make something out of the life of George Moore were able to appreciate the interest that springs from growth of character. In this lies the main attraction of the goodly volume now before us; but it would be wrong to give the impression even for a moment that this is the only interest. Whether we view George Moore as the Cumberland boy and youth—full of health, not disinclined to a bit of fun, and with a frank eye to the desirability of becoming as good a wrestler as any one in the district—or as the draper's apprentice, keeping his somewhat dissipated master's customers together; first yielding to a temptation to gambling, and then resolutely overcoming it;—or, as the shopman in London falling in love with his master's daughter, and working hard for self-improvement inspired by this somewhat remote ideal;—or, as the traveller, "on the road," keeping up a close competition, and yet never slow to do a kindly action;—or, as the successful warehouseman, keenly concerned in everything that relates to accumulation, discipline, order, strict government, and utter scrupulosity over details, and yet checking all this by the development of wide interests and generous philanthropic impulses—whether we think of George Moore in one aspect or another, it is always as the subject of growth and the increase of power and influence; but there is an attraction of effort and energy, and well-earned reward also.

Mr. Smiles has, in our idea, done well in giving such a full and vigorous picture of the circumstances among which George Moore's young days were spent. Moore himself was quite right in always looking back to that simple, healthy, unaffectedly good and upright life as the source of much of his strength and success. These old Cumberland "statesmen" were a class by themselves. They were the yeomen of Northern England, nearly extinct now. Industrious, rugged, plain-spoken, they affected to scorn somewhat the tenderer feelings, but deep down in their nature there lay a vein of true gentleness and bravery. They were full of mother wit, and though they were conservative, had a keen eye for fresh resources. The Moores of Mealsgate were good specimens of their class. The one weakness of George's father was willingness to help his neighbours, and he had reduced the family means by becoming surety for others. But frugality and economy had enabled them to live respectably. George's mother died when he was about five years old, and after being five years a widower his father married again—a good woman, who, however, did not bring much happiness to the family. "My father," says George Moore, "was one of the most straightforward of men. He had as great moral courage as any man I ever knew. I can well remember his ordering a man out of his house who came in drunk, and reprimanding others who had done some bad deed." The schooling was very bad in these districts at that time, and George Moore was not fond of school. "Blackbird" Wilson, the teacher, was a tyrant, utterly without qualification for his post, and the boy did not learn what he might have learned, as he often regretted afterwards. He found his great delight in frolic, in bird-nesting, wrestling, and hunting; and it was only when he was sent to a better school for a few months before leaving home that he began to feel how ignorant he was, and how much he had lost by his determination not to learn his lessons.

At the age of fourteen he became apprentice to a draper in Wigton; and certainly this part of his life is highly interesting, as showing how early, under peculiar circumstances, he became master of himself. That story of his companion

who had unwillingly "to sleep in his boots" is very good indeed. George Moore came up to London when he was about nineteen, bringing with him as sole capital a strong, healthy frame, a good character (which he nearly forfeited quite innocently by a careless error in a bill), and great capacity for work, though he was by no means a lad of uncommon intellectual quickness. He himself tells us of his great difficulties and discouragements he met with in the quest for a situation. Mr. Smiles summarises:—

On the morning—the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday—he set out, full of spirits, to find a situation. The result of his day's work was very disappointing. He was not only discouraged but provoked. Wherever he went he was laughed at, because of his country-cut clothes and his broad Cumberland dialect. But he consoled himself. He did not expect to find a situation at once. He must try again. He would begin again on Monday morning, and persevere until he succeeded. There must be plenty of persons in that enormous city wanting a draper's assistant. He accordingly went out early in the morning, and returned late at night. The result was the same—utter disappointment. Not a person would have him. Some pretended they could not understand his northern dialect. Was such a lad likely to serve customers? After his first inquiry he was generally shown to the door.

"The keenest cut of all I got," he says, "was from Charles Meeking, of Holtorn. He asked me if I wanted a porter's situation. This almost broke my heart."

He himself admits that he was rather "green" and uncultivated, and that there was little wonder that the West-end shopkeepers did not give him a place behind their counters. When afterwards referring to this early part of his career, he said, "I had no one to take me by the hand. My very appearance was against me, for the Wigton tailors were not so expert as they are now; and when I applied for a situation it was difficult to convince them that it was a place behind the counter I wanted, and not some meaner situation. My dialect, too, was against me; for, though it is pretty broad now, yet it was much broader then. After beating about London for an entire week, I began to think myself a not very remarkable commodity in the great city."

At last, he got settled in the house of a Mr. Ray, a Cumberland man, who knew his father, and was willing to do him a kindness. He did his work carefully, and by-and-by was successful in finding a situation in a larger house. He says:—

I found in this house (said he, speaking of Fisher's) a first-rate class of young men, principally well-to-do people's sons—well educated, well-mannered, well conducted. I soon found out my lamentable deficiency in education. I had never cost my father more than 6s. 6d. a quarter for schooling, except the last quarter, which cost 8s. As our hours were shorter than in the retail trade I went to a night school, being so much ashamed of my ignorance. I frequently sat up studying my lessons until the small hours in the morning. I often think of those nights as the most usefully spent hours of my life. I learned more during the eighteen months that I frequented the night school than I had ever learned before. If I had not availed myself of that opportunity I should never have had the chance again. From the part in life I was destined to take, I must often have blushed for my ignorance and evoked the sneers of others, which would very much have galled my sensitive nature.

His progress hereafter was rapid. He made up his mind thoroughly to master all the outs and ins of the business, and did it. He resolutely denied himself all kinds of pleasure that would have interfered with his object. The result was that he soon became town traveller for Fisher and Co., then he was put on the Manchester circuit, and by-and-by entered into partnership with two others, one of whom had been a rival on the road. This was the beginning of the firm of Copestake, Moore, and Co. For a long time George Moore travelled for the firm; he wrought almost night and day, and the tax he put on himself at this time in his endeavour to extend the business had, no doubt, something to do with that illness which later, when he had relinquished "travelling," compelled him, under medical advice, to find relief in hunting, in which his attainments were by no means contemptible. But all this time he did not forget others. After he had secured such a footing in business as to enable him to devote time to philanthropic matters his first great work was the improving of the schools in Cumberland—one in which he admirably succeeded. He remembered what he had suffered from bad schooling himself, and he threw all his energies into the work. Then he took up the cause of the incurables, wrought hard for ragged schools, was heart and soul of the Commercial Travellers' Schools and Orphanages, as well as those of the Warehousemen and Clerks'; and, in short, was a willing supporter of, and also an earnest worker for, a crowd of splendid institutions, which owe much of their success to his efforts. And, if it may sometimes be felt that he laid a little too much stress on certain "forms," he certainly did not fail to let charity begin at home. His own people in Bow Churchyard were his first care. A very characteristic trait is revealed to us in his choosing as his first guests to the house he had built in Kensington Palace Gardens his own young men and women:—

As our young men and women had at Bow Churchyard been instrumental in helping to gain the wealth

for building such a house, I determined they should be the first to visit us. We gave a ball to about 300 of our own people, and allowed the young men to invite their female friends, to equalise the sexes. After the dancing there was a grand supper. Many of our private friends were there—Wilfrid and William Lawson, of Brayton, John Steel, Esq., M.P., and many more. We gave a second ball to all the porters and their wives, the drivers, and the female servants. There were about two hundred in all. We employed omnibuses to bring them to the house and send them away. They got abundant refreshment, and danced to their hearts' content.

After this we kept a great deal of company. The house was looked upon as a work of art. All our friends expected to be invited to see it and partake of our hospitality. We accordingly gave a large dinner weekly, until we had exhausted our numerous friends and acquaintances. My wife kept an account of about eight hundred who dined with us. But happiness does not flow in such a channel. Promiscuous company takes one's mind away from God and His dealings with men; and there is no lasting pleasure in the excitement.

He took a great interest in the cabmen, and was unremitting in his endeavour to improve their condition, being resolute against Sunday cab labour:—

One day a cabman drove George Moore from his house to Euston-square. He gave the driver a shilling over the fare. The cabman returned the extra money. Mr. Moore had already discovered a Scotchman who had returned him his fare, though he had a right to it. But to have an extra fare returned by a London cabman who had no right to it was something still more extraordinary. "How is this?" he asked. "Well, you have paid me more than the fare, and you are George Moore!" said the cabman. Mr. Moore was in a hurry to get off by the train, and said nothing at the time, but merely asked for the cabman's number. He afterwards found that the cabman's name was Cockram, and that he had won the prize essay for 20*l.* which had been awarded to him. On his return to London, Mr. Moore sent for Mr. Cockram, and ascertained that the money he had obtained for the prize had proved the nest-egg of good fortune. First, he had bought a horse and a cab; he had increased these from time to time until he had become the possessor of about a hundred horses and of numerous cabs. He never used these on Sundays.

Through this interview he was led to invite to his house some hundreds of cabmen, who were duly entertained with speech and song and other good things by Mr. Moore, who had the assistance, amongst others, of Sir Wilfrid Lawson and Colonel Henderson, whose presence at first inspired some questionings and whisperings.

Perhaps the most trying enterprise on which Mr. Moore embarked was the "relief of Paris." When the siege was raised, he with some others set out for the famished city with money and abundant food supplies, and he mainly it was that organised the distribution of it. Never was great work more grandly done. Mr. Smiles has done full justice to that episode in the life. We have no space to outline it, and must content ourselves with this paragraph:—

Money was supplied to enable the people to take their things out of pawn, to buy garden seeds, and for other purposes. On Wednesday, Feb. 22, the police called at Mr. Moore's depot, and ordered that the distribution of food should cease, as the crowds that assembled round the door blocked the thoroughfare. On this, Mr. Moore says:—"We put on all steam, and determined to keep open all night, as well as during the following day. All the streets round the warehouse were blocked with people. The food was ready for distribution. We calculated that we saw a party through in half a minute! The French people were astonished at our energy; they cheered me. I remained till one at night, and left them in full swing." The warehouse was closed on the evening of the 23rd; up to eight o'clock they had distributed food to 96,500 persons. The remaining provisions were divided amongst the committee of the Archbishop of Paris, the Jewish Rabbi, and the Protestant pastors.

We feel that Mr. Smiles does not go a whit beyond the mark when he says:—

Mr. Moore went about on his different works of charity and mercy. He went from the East to the West. He wore off many pairs of boots in begging for the charities in which he took a particular interest. He enlisted others in the service. He made them help him. "No recruiting officer," said one of his friends, "ever had a keener eye for a smart-looking recruit than he had for a lively worker in his charitable objects." Mr. Porter says of him: "Of all the persons I ever knew he had the greatest power of extracting talents from others. No matter what it was, he would make them either work for him, or work with him; he could never tolerate drones."

As he begged from all, so he was begged off by all. An open purse is always assailable. Beggars saw his name on the various charity lists, and inundated him with applications for money. "I am worried," he says, "more and more every day with begging letters. To investigate all these cases is entirely out of my power." For, it must be stated, that he never contributed to any object without thorough investigation beforehand. Even when he went to Cumberland parcels of begging letters followed him. At Whitehall he says: "In this lonely place I have received packets of all sorts of applications for money. I really feel astonished at some people's assurance."

The book abounds in little anecdotes and bits of character; for Mr. Moore was a shrewd observer, and could well appreciate a point. This shows Lord Brougham's cynical turn towards women:—

After dinner that evening there were many present who wished to hear Lord Brougham converse; but he was tired and reserved. George Moore asked if he thought the Empress of the French had much in-

* George Moore; Merchant and Philanthropist. By SAMUEL SMILES, LL.D., Author of "Lives of the Engineers," &c., with a portrait by G. F. Watts; etched by Rajori. (George Routledge and Sons.)

fluence over her husband in Church matters. "She has just the influence," he replied, "that every woman has on her husband; she nags, nags, nags, till she gets her own way."

If George Moore's ambition had been merely to figure before the world ample opportunities were presented to him. When he was "pricked" for sheriff of London, he paid the fine of 400*l.* rather than serve; many were the requests made to him from the City of London and other places to stand for Parliament, which he would not consent to do. He devoted to philanthropic work far more labour than Parliament would have involved; but he loved this work in and for itself, and not a little of Parliamentary work he would not have loved; and his decision perhaps was wise. So far as his own satisfaction and peace of mind were concerned, he certainly was right. His diaries and letters contain frequent very earnest self-reproaches for failing to do for others all that he might have done; and had he entered Parliament we fear he might only have had far more serious cause for these. George Moore was assuredly in his place, when he was seeking to excite an interest in orphan schools, or in cabmen's missions, distributing food to the starving crowds of Paris, or canvassing for the destitute at the East End. Mr. Smiles has done well to exhibit him fully in these works; there the man's character is supremely revealed; his great tact, his organising skill, his benevolence; the force of gracious and governing human nature which drew Charles Dickens to his side, found in these their fullest play. When we behold him in the hunting field, or among his shorthorns at Whitehall, he is still the same George Moore; but he seems to rise into fuller stature, and to gain in every lovely attribute, when he is snatching time from the pressing details of a great business to listen to the story of an orphan home, or to hear from a cabman how he rose out of wretchedness and destitution to self-respect and competence. Mr. Smiles has had what seemed more *taking* subjects, but he never had a more truly great one; and he has handled it with no little success, making Mr. Moore tell pretty completely his own story. It is a book not only to read, but to return to, and to reflect over.

A GERMAN LIFE OF WICLIF.*

It is melancholy to reflect that some of the most suggestive histories in relation to this country have not been the product of English authors. Happily, however, we do not stand alone in this respect. Spain and Holland are indebted for the record of their greatest patriotic achievements and their greatest national glories not to Spaniards nor Hollanders, but to Americans. Who, even in Spain or Holland, knows anything of Ferdinand and Isabella, or of the Dutch Republic, but from the pages of Prescott and Motley? And so we have been indebted to a Pauli and a Lappenberg for some of our best knowledge of early English history, as we are now indebted to Dr. Lechler for the most thorough life of Wiclif that has ever been written.

Those who know the late Dr. Robert Vaughan's life of the early English Reformer, have, we suppose, always known that it was an exceptionally good biography. For scholars it was not so good as it might have been, but, on the whole, it is possible that a better book than Dr. Vaughan's could not, at the time he produced it, have been written. And besides, the English author, able although he was, was not so competent to the careful and minute investigation that is shown in this work—which we may at once pronounce to be the only life of Wiclif worthy of Wiclif's name that has been written. Here we have the thorough and patient search that is so characteristic of German historians, but in which happily, some English historians have even surpassed them, and also a thorough impartiality as regards parties. Of course, it is to be understood that there is a sympathy with Wiclif's ideas, or else Dr. Lechler could not, in all probability have written. The long study which our author has given to Wiclif's life and times has resulted in many important discoveries. Chief of these is the rare collection of Wiclif MSS.—tracts and sermons—in the Imperial Library of Vienna, which are to be found nowhere else, but which throw great light on the earlier public life of the Reformer. The author thus describes their character:—

It was as an integral part of the same projected collection of "Select Works of Wiclif," that the author of the present work brought out in 1869 a critical edition of the "Trialogus," upon the authority of a collation of four Vienna MSS. of the work, accompanied by the "Supplementum Trialogi," which had

executed that critical task. When at the beginning of the 15th century the Wiclif spirit took so strong a hold of Bohemia and Moravia, Bohemian hands were busily employed through several decades of years in multiplying copies of the books, sermons, and tracts of the "Evangelical Doctor." Hence there are still to be found in print. It was the treasures of the Imperial Library of Vienna which put him in a position to be found at the present day, not only in Prague itself, but also in Vienna and Paris, and even in Stockholm, MSS. of Wiclif's works, of which little use has hitherto been made. In particular, the Imperial Library of Vienna, owing to the secularisation of the Bohemian monasteries under Joseph II., is in possession of nearly forty volumes, which consist either entirely or chiefly of unprinted Latin works of Wiclif, of which, in some instances, not a single copy is to be found in England. By the kind mediation of the Saxon Government with the Imperial Government of Austria, I obtained from the latter the leisurely and unrestricted use of all those volumes of the collection which I required, and which were sent to me from Vienna as I needed them with the utmost liberality—a gracious furtherance of literary labours, for which, I trust, I may be allowed in this place to express my most respectful and most sincere thanks.

When I compare the two groups of "Sources" which serve to elucidate the personality and the entire historical position of Wiclif, I come in sight of the fact that the English sermons and tracts most recently printed belong, almost without exception, to the four last years of his life (1381-1384). They serve, therefore, to throw upon his latest convictions and efforts—however comparatively well-known these were before—a still clearer and fuller documentary light. The Latin works, on the other hand, so far as they only exist in MS., were for the most part written at earlier dates, some of them indeed going back as far as the year 1370. These latter, therefore, have a specially high value, because we learn from them the thoughts and doings of Wiclif during an earlier stadium of his life; and, what is most important of all, they open up to us a view of his gradual development—of the progress of his mind in insight and enlightenment.

Before proceeding any farther, let us join in the author's expression of hope that, as only a single copy of some of these invaluable MSS. exists, they may be printed without loss of time. To that let us add the further hope that Dr. Lechler will undertake the labour of editorship.

The earlier chapters of this work deal with the English precursors of the Reformer. They were few, and it is not proved that any of them exercised a direct influence upon Wiclif's spiritual life. Yet the probability is that they did; for it is rare to find the mind of any man taking so independent a course as did Wiclif without some external impulse having been given to it, however obscure that may have been. Thought, for the most part, is an inheritance, which some neglect, some accumulate, others both accumulate and extend. Of these precursors there are extremely accurate descriptions. They include Grossetête, the pious, courageous, and reforming Bishop of Lincoln; Bracton, the political jurist; Occam, the theologian and philosopher; Richard of Armagh, who may be described as the flail of the Mendicant Friars; Thomas of Bradwardine, spiritual teacher; and "Piers Plowman," the English middle-class Radical. The work and influence of these are carefully examined—the whole being viewed in connection with the political and ecclesiastical character of the times in which they lived. Wiclif may be taken to be the representative of them all, uniting more or less in his own person their several distinctive characteristics.

All the questions—so often discussed—relating to Wiclif's early life are investigated by Dr. Lechler with unexampled patience, candour, and thoroughness. He accepts Dr. Vaughan's conclusion, which, indeed, cannot now be disputed, that the Reformer was born at Spreswell, near Wiclif, in Yorkshire. That, as he says, "no longer admits of a doubt." The year of his birth, however, is still left uncertain, but the author imagines it to have been earlier than has been generally supposed. The early connection of Wiclif with Balliol and Merton Colleges is set forth in great detail—necessary only because it has given rise to so many inquiries. We cannot follow these, but it is interesting to note the emphasis which is laid by the author upon the Reformer's "special faculty and taste for natural philosophy," and his logical and dialectical studies. It is believed, however, that he was destined for the clerical office. Naturally, therefore, came theology, and it is certain that he had made himself acquainted with both Roman and Canon law. His subsequent offices at Oxford need not here be referred to, although it is not a little interesting to remember that one of the present Master of Balliol's predecessors was John Wiclif. His connection with Canterbury Hall has long been a matter of dispute. It will be recollected how he was a-persed on this account, and how it has been endeavoured to set aside the course of aspersion, by the attempt to prove that it was another Wiclif—a "Wyelyve" who was the first Warden. Considering that Wiclif's attacks on the Mendicant Orders were said to be owing to his mortification at being dismissed from this Wardenship and succeeded therein by a

monk, the question is one of no little importance. It is examined in these pages with that minute knowledge, as well as candour, which distinguishes every page of this work, but our author arrives at the conclusion that it was the Reformer and not a namesake who was the Warden, and who was ejected. But at the same time he shows that this cannot, as his opponents urged, affect his character; for, first, the question is referred to by Wiclif, only years later, in the most unimpassioned terms, and as a public question relating to the abuse of Church property, and, secondly, that contrary to the general supposition that Wiclif, instead of having commenced what may be termed his public life with attacks on the monks, did not attack them until about twenty years afterwards. Dr. Lechler says:—

Vaughan, in 1831, had followed Anthony Wood in the confident statement that Wiclif publicly censured the errors and failings of the Mendicant Orders as early as 1360, and became the object of their hostility in consequence. But in his later work, as the fruit of more careful investigation of the subject, he is no longer able to arrive at the same confident result upon the point. He remarks, with truth, that there is no direct evidence to show that Wiclif began that controversy at the precise date which he had previously assigned. But he continued to the last, notwithstanding, to be of opinion that Wiclif began his work as a Reformer with attacks upon the Monastic, and especially upon the Mendicant Orders; he believed, besides, that while the exact date at which Wiclif began the controversy could not be ascertained, it must yet be fixed at a period not much later than 1360. But on this subject we are unable to agree with him, not only because we are not aware, like himself, of any direct and decisive proof that Wiclif began his attacks upon the monks even in the years next following 1360, but because, on the contrary, we have in our hands direct proofs that Wiclif continued to speak of the begging orders with all respectful recognition during the twenty years which elapsed between 1360 and 1380. We content ourselves in this place with stating, in anticipation, so much as this, that the reading of the unpublished writings of Wiclif, among others, yields the most weighty confirmation to the statement of his opponent, Woodford, that it was in connection with the controversy opened by Wiclif on the subject of transubstantiation, and therefore after 1381 at the earliest, that he began to oppose himself, on principle, to the Mendicants, who had come forward as his antagonists on that fundamental question.

The whole question was one as to the intention of the founder of Canterbury Hall—Isleip, the Archbishop—and there can be no doubt whatever that Wiclif was right, and that the representations of his opponents were "a manifest misrepresentation of the facts, and a malicious calumny."

The circumstances of Wiclif's first appearance as a politician are well known, but here our author makes a suggestion which strikes us as startling. It is that Wiclif himself was summoned to Parliament. There was certainly no constitutional reason why he should not have been, and if he were we should be able the better to understand his active interest in political affairs, and his subsequent intimacy with John of Gaunt. On the other hand, we have no direct statement that he was, and even, notwithstanding Dr. Lechler, no sufficient indirect statement or reference of his own, for the quotation from "De Ecclesia" is anything but conclusive. It is, "If such things had been asserted by me against my king, they would have been inquired into before now in the Parliament of England"—words which are surely no proof that the alleged "things" had been said in Parliament. On the contrary, if they had been, would not Wiclif at once have appealed to Parliament itself, asking, in his justification, whether he had ever said such things? Nor does the fact that Wiclif appears to report the speeches of lords at all strengthen Dr. Lechler's suggestion. The speeches are evidently typical of opinion alone—imaginary lines of argument. Until, therefore, some better evidence than we find here is brought forward, we shall be obliged to reject the author's theory, however interesting it may be.

There were other reasons why Wiclif should take an interest in public affairs. All great and learned ecclesiastics of his time did so, and that time was one of the most exciting and one of the most critical in English history—when the Crown was resisting the exorbitant and impudent claims of the Papacy. Of those claims it is needless to say Wiclif was the sturdiest opponent. Mainly, at this period, they related to property—the tenacious hold of which was as characteristic of the clergy five hundred years ago as it is now. On this occasion Wiclif vindicated the right of the State to call in Church property. The line which he invariably took upon this and cognate questions is well known, as when, in one of his unpublished works in 1371, he makes a peer to say, "Even so, when war breaks out we must take from the endowed clergy a portion of their temporal possessions as property which belongs to us and the kingdom in common, and we must wisely defend the country with property which is our

* John Wiclif and his English Precursors. By Professor LECHLER, D.D., of the University of Leipzig. Translated, &c., by PETER LORIMER, D.D. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.)

own and exists among us in superfluity." The difference between the times of Edward III. and Victoria in this respect is, that in the former the doctrine was fully acted upon, in the latter it is not. Not all the screams of pope and clergy—the old Church defenders—could prevent the Parliament of 1371 from applying its doctrine of rights.

We have referred to John of Gaunt. How he became acquainted with Wiclif is not known, but there must have been many opportunities given—for all men eminent in Church and State must have known each other. Dr. Lechler says, "John of Gaunt was a brave swordsman, and nothing more." No historian ever made a greater mistake. How far he was the wily and ambitious schemer that others have represented is somewhat uncertain. It may be that Professor Stubbs's reading of his character, as given in the recently-published volume of his "Constitutional History," is the true one, and that he sought to use the Wiclif party for his own ambitious purposes, abandoning them when he found that they were not strong enough to give any effective help. This may be so, but we can also well understand how his own personal sympathies may have gone with them.

Of the trials of Wiclif we need say nothing, or but a word. Of the condemned articles our author takes a somewhat different view from that of previous historians. The first five, he maintains, related to municipal and legal relations only. "Wiclif's proposition is, that all rights of inheritance and property are not to be considered as inherently unconditional and absolute, but as dependent upon God's will and grace. Then in Nos. 6 and 7 he lays down the bold proposition, 'In the event of the Church falling into error, or of Churchmen abusing the property of the Church, it is competent for kings and temporal rulers to withdraw from them in a legal and moral manner the temporal property.'"

We have only just space, and we have not reached the end of the first volume of this work, to refer to Wiclif's sermons, so many of which, hitherto unknown, have been discovered at Vienna. Amongst these are forty miscellaneous sermons preached before the year 1378. The description given of these by our author, with some illustrative extracts, will tend to augment the reputation of the Reformer as an Evangelical preacher. "It is God's Word that should be preached, for God's Word is the bread of souls, and indispensable wholesome bread; and, therefore, he thinks, to feed the flock without Bible truth is the same thing as if one were to prepare for another a bodily meal without bread." "The priests learn and teach holy Scripture for this purpose—that the Church may learn to know the walk of Christ, and may be led to love Christ Himself." And Dr. Lechler says,—

Lastly, as concerns the tone of these sermons, and the moral spirit which dictates their whole contents, it will not be easy for any one who allows them to work upon him without prejudice, not to receive the impression that there is here a veritable zeal for the glory of God—a pure love to the Redeemer, and a sincere concern for the salvation of souls. There reigns throughout them a truly godly mind, whose habit is to view all that is earthly in its relations to a higher world, and to deal with it all in the light of eternity. It is impossible to think otherwise of such a preacher, so full of earnest godliness and Christian conscientiousness, but that he must have made a deep impression upon all men who did not deliberately stand aloof from the sphere of his influence and power.

These must be our last words, excepting one or two regarding Dr. Lorimer's editorship and translation of this most valuable work. The whole work is not before us in this edition; some portions, with the author's sanction and approval, having been omitted because they "did appear likely to interest English readers so much as what relates directly to England and Wiclif himself." The editorship must be skilfully performed, for we can detect no traces of omission, and Dr. Lorimer has greatly added to the value of the work by his own scholarly notes, which sometimes give the last absolutely necessary proof in favour of new readings of certain passages in Wiclif's life.

MR. BROWNING'S NEW POEMS.*

If it cannot be said that Mr. Browning has wholly left behind his tendency to introverted and *outré* modes of thought in the poem "La Saisiaz," he has embodied in it some lines which for depth of experience and pathos and for simplicity of expression will long be remembered. We have no means of determining whether the incidents of the poem rest on a basis of actual experience or are only imaginary, but some lines are so heart-touching that we believe the former must be the case. The poet represents himself as taking his morning walk on the mountains near the Lake of Geneva—Salève and Jura not far off—Collonge (the future home of one of his

lady companions whom he has left at the chalet) in the distance, with intervening spaces of woodland and slope and vineyard,—

Every side my glance was bent
O'er the grandeur and the beauty lavished thro' the
whole ascent,
Ledge by ledge outbroke new marvels, now minute
and now immense,
Earth's most exquisite disclosure, heaven's own God
in evidence!
And no berry in its hiding, no blue space in its out-
spread,
Placed to escape my footstep, challenged my emerg-
ing heel;
As I climbed, or paused from climbing, now o'er-
branched by shrub and tree,
Now built round by rock and boulder, now at just a
turn set free,
Stationed face to face with—Nature! rather with
Infinity!
—No revelation of them all, as singly I my path
pursued.

Saw proceed the transformation—Jura's black to one
gold glow,
Trod your level path that let me drink the morning
deep and slow,
Reached the little quarry—ravage recompensed by
shrub and fern,
Till the overflowing ardours told me time was to
return.

And when he does return, it is to miss, with
a strange sinking of the heart, the salute of "a
tall white figure" which had formerly wel-
comed him back. His friend had been struck
down in a moment:—

No premonitory touch
As you talked and laughed ('tis told me) scarce a
minute ere the clutch
Captured you in cold for ever. Cold? Nay, warm
you were as life
When I raised you, while the others used, in pas-
sionate poor strife,
All the means that seemed to promise any aid, and
all in vain;
Gone you were, and I shall never see that earnest
face again
Grow transparent, grow transfigured with the sudden
light that leapt,
At the first word's provocation, from the heart-deeps
where it slept.

And now there is nothing but reflection and
wonder and question over the mystery, and
pathos and perplexity of life, with all its pains
and separations:—

But a bitter touched its sweetness, for the thought
stung "Even so
Both of us had loved and wandered just the same
five days ago!"
Five short days, sufficient hardly to entice, from out
its den,
Splintered in the slab, this pink perfection of the
cyclamen;
Scarce enough to heal and coat with amber gum the
sloe-tree's gash,
Bronze the clustered wilding apple, reddened ripe the
mountain ash;
Yet of might to place between us—oh, the barrier!
yon Profound
Shrinks beside it—proves a pin-point, barrier this
without a bound!

Then the poet passes, as is his wont, into a
series of philosophic questionings, glancing here
and there at the profoundest depths in his own
peculiar way, and then suddenly retreating
back on the safe ground of common instinct,
belief, and hope. Even the intellect and the
fancy and emotions seem to come into conflict,
and finally the "Reason" and the "Fancy," in
what we cannot help thinking forms of some-
what grotesque character, are set before us,
arguing out the great questions of death, and
life, and immortality. The metre, suitable
enough for "Locksley Hall," or even for the
simpler thoughts and feelings that are expressed
in the earlier part of the poem, strikes us as
unsuitable and simply *outré* when used as it is
here. The peculiar and unexpected turns, the
dextrous surprises, planned as if with *malice
prepense*, do not completely reconcile themselves
with the earnest substance and the lofty inten-
tion of the author. Repose and simplicity are
lacking. These the subject imperatively de-
mands, and even Mr. Browning's psychological
dexterity will not atone for them. But how
exquisite are separate lines and short passages.
They only bring out with the greater force the
perversity of much of the writing. This, for
instance, is final in its truth and felicity:—

How the trees must temper noontide! Ah, the
thicket's sudden break!
What will be the morning glory, when at dusk thus
gleams the lake?

In the light of the few facts and extracts we
have given, the last verse of the exquisite lyric
which stands by way of introduction to "La
Saisiaz" may be the better understood:—

Waft of soul's wing!
What lies above?
Sunshine and love,
Skyblue and spring!
Body hides—where?
Ferns of all feather,
Mosses and heather,
Yours be the care.

"The Two Poets of Croisic"—which is
written in that eight-line stanza which Byron
used for light and satiric themes—is in every
way a contrast to "La Saisiaz." Of course

Mr. Browning could not be other than
thoughtful, suggestive, full of dramatic revela-
tion, psychologic freak, and verbal novelty and
surprise. But we fancy the rhymed couplet he
has used so ingeniously several times might
have suited him better. The poem, however,
the ordinary reader will be more likely to enjoy
in extenso than many of Mr. Browning's efforts.
We have only space to give this exquisite little
piece which stands to it as motto:—

Such a starved bank of moss,
Till that May-morn,
Blue ran the flash across,
Violets were born.

Sky—what a scowl of cloud
Till near and far,
Ray on ray split the abroad:
Splendid, a star!

World—had it walled about
Life with disgrace,
Till God's own smile came out;
That was thy face!

MURRAY'S STUDENT'S HISTORIES.*

These two manuals have been long announced
and eagerly looked for. The student entering
upon ecclesiastical history, whether European
or English, and the general reader have alike
felt the need of such works as these; they were
therefore prepared to give them a cordial, if a
provisional, welcome. We purpose to inform
our readers of the method and spirit in which
these authors have performed their work,
and to offer a few criticisms which seem
to us necessary upon the result. The method
and distribution of matter will be found
the same as in all these manuals edited by Dr.
W. Smith. The tables of contents are always
informing by their orderly arrangement, and
the use of two types in printing the text and
the supplementary notes greatly assists the
acquisition and retention of information. The
chronological tables and the final index are of
great value. It is impossible to praise too
highly Dr. W. Smith and his coadjutors in
respect of editing and printing these manuals.
But a much more important thing than the
arrangement of the matter is the matter itself,
and of this we propose to give a short account.

The definition of the Church and its, so-to-
speak, typical history, are not such as we
should set before students of ecclesiastical his-
tory. Mr. Smith regards the Church as an
institution by itself, an end in itself, and not
as one out of a great many efforts to realise the
kingdom of God upon earth. It agrees, doubt-
less, with the foregone conclusions of many
Churchmen that Christ established the present
visible Episcopal Church, and ordained those
who should, through their successors, administer
certain holy and efficacious rites. But these are
not the views of all Church writers, and cer-
tainly are not the views of dissenters from
Episcopalian forms and ceremonies. In a
manual prepared for general use the introduc-
tion and very much of the first chapter might
have been omitted. In the latter, respecting
the "forty days" between the Renunciation and
Ascension of Christ, we are told:—

The *Quadragesimal* period itself had a mystic meaning.
As the founder of God's kingdom on earth had His own
faith and patience tried during a solitude of forty days
between His baptism and His showing to Israel (like
Moses, the founder, and Elijah, the reformer, of the
Jewish Church), so, as the risen Head of the Church, he
spent his last forty days on earth in confirming the
faith of His disciples, and working in them a conviction
of the truth of His resurrection and the spiritual nature
of His kingdom.

We contend that this statement is pure
assumption, which might be allowed to stand
as part of an argument, but which should
have no place in a manual of Church history.
There is very much in the following chapters
on the apostolic times, apostolic writings, and
treatment of heresy, which seems to us to
indicate a bias which no historian should evince.
The entire contents of the volume are divided
into three books—the first containing the
history of the primitive and persecuted Church
to the edict of toleration in 313 A.D.; the second,
"The Church of the Roman Empire"; the third,
"The Decline of the Eastern Church and
the Establishment of the Holy Roman Empire."
These three books are broken into chapters, and
the chapters are followed by supplementary
notes. Besides these there are full references to
authorities and verbal explanations in footnotes
which render the volume a very trustworthy
guide to a further knowledge of the subject.
Church history is so full of interest that it is
impossible to read this book merely as a school
or college manual. Its sketches, brief as they

* *The Student's Ecclesiastical History.* The History
of the Christian Church during the first ten centuries.
By PHILIP SMITH, B.A., &c.

* *The Student's English Church History.* A History
of the English Church, from the Accession of Henry
VIII. to the Silencing of Convocation in the 18th
Century. By G. G. PERRY, M.A. (London: John
Murray.)

* *La Saisiaz: the Two Poets of Croisic.* By ROBERT
BROWNING. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)

necessarily are, of the persecutions and triumphs of the early Church, of its growing beliefs and its crystallising ceremonies, of its establishment under Constantine and its varying fortunes under his successors, afford a pleasure which is undiminished by the real difference of opinion that we occasionally have from the writer. As one of the best examples of the literary skill with which an immense number of facts have been combined so as to form an interesting narrative, let the reader turn to Chapter XIX., which, with the woodcut of St. Martin's Church, Canterbury, at its head, tells the early history of the English Church. The illustrations to the volume are very numerous, and are both useful and artistic.

Canon Perry introduces the reader to the time of the Reformation by an account of the social and religious condition of England at a period prior to the Wars of the Roses, and of the forces then at work which must, independently of the character of Henry VIII., have resulted in rupture with Rome. It was in spite of the King's early opinions, and of the attempt to hinder the circulation of Tyndall's Bible, that reforming views spread in England. Henry's character and domestic necessities were doubtless the occasion of separating the Church of England from Rome, but the causes were deeper than his character and more mighty than his will. These causes are traced by Mr. Perry with great care, and he shows "that the Reformation was fairly on foot, though in a crude and unformed state, long before the rupture between the King and the Pope. The Reformers in and about London are said to have been organised in a secret society called 'The Christian Brotherhood,' which had its central committee and paid agents for distributing New Testaments and proscribed books."

Looking at this history of the Church of England as a whole, we feel pleasure in commending it to our readers. It is not complete, since it omits much that really belongs to the ecclesiastical history of this kingdom; we refer to the rise and growth of Free Churches. Nor do we think it is quite fair to the Catholics of Elizabeth's time. This is unfortunate, as it compels the teacher and the student to have other text-books or to have recourse to the ordinary histories of England. Is it not possible to tell the story of England's religious development with the same fairness with which Hallam traces her constitutional development? It would seem not, judging from what has hitherto been done. Certainly Mr. Perry has not done it, as a glance at the pages in which he treats of the Church in the sixteenth century will show. We have gone carefully over the reign of Elizabeth as detailed in this volume, and afterwards through the two chapters in which Mr. Hallam examines the laws passed in this reign against Roman Catholics and Puritans, with their effect. The contrast is instructive. Hallam the lawyer and man of letters is judicial and impartial; Canon Perry, the Churchman, impresses as an apologist. In the pages of the latter we find nothing of the severity with which the Catholics were persecuted, whereas the former tells us under the year 1580, when fresh laws were passed against Catholic worship, "the rack seldom stood idle in the Tower for all the latter part of Elizabeth's reign." He computes the number of Roman Catholic martyrs in this reign at about 200, while he adds, "Many others died of hardships in prison, and many were deprived of their property." He sums up thus:—"The statutes were, in many instances, absolutely unjust, in others not demanded by circumstances, in almost all prompted by religious bigotry, by excessive apprehension, or by the arbitrary spirit with which our Government was administered by Elizabeth." Mr. Perry's account of the Puritans and the early Baptists and Independents should be carefully compared with, so as to be sometimes corrected and always supplemented by, Nonconformist historians. How are we to trust implicitly a historian who judges men by their *Churchmanship*? Speaking of Lord Burleigh who, "angry in his heart with Whitgift, and disliking the progress in power and authority which he saw the Church to be making, made some ungenerous reflections upon the bishops. Men that were well enough before their promotion, he said, became full of worldliness when they were made bishops. . . . In fact," concludes Mr. Perry, "this eminent man had but a very moderate amount of Churchmanship," and then follows another proof in his desire to appoint Walter Travers to the mastership of the Temple. But without going to a Nonconformist history, let anyone compare the account given in this volume of the trial and death of Nicholas Udal with what Hallam says of the same occurrence. Mr. Perry says:—

Nicholas Udal, a suspended minister, was convicted of being the author of the "Demonstration," and thereby to have been a slanderer of the Queen's Government. The jury came to their verdict as to the authorship of the "Demonstration" on insufficient evi-

dence, but Udal's own admissions clearly enough showed that he was really the author of this, and probably of some other libels. He was condemned to die under the libel law of 1531, but at Whitgift's intercession he obtained his pardon. However, he was not destined to leave his prison, but died there.

Now, let us see the lawyer's view of the same trial:—

Udal, a Puritan minister, fell into the grasp of the same statute for an alleged libel on the bishops, which had surely a very indirect reference to the Queen's Administration. His trial, like most other political trials of the age, disgraces the name of English justice. It consisted mainly in a pitiful attempt by the Court to entrap him into a confession that the imputed libel was of his writing, as to which their proof was deficient. Though he avoided this snare, the jury did not fail to obey the directions they received to convict him. So far from being concerned in Martin's writings, Udal professed his disapprobation of them, and his ignorance of their author. This sentence appeared too iniquitous to be executed even in the eyes of Whitgift, who interceded for his life, but he died of the effects of confinement.

We have not space at our disposal to follow Mr. Perry through the reigns of the early Stuarts, but we cannot, in the interests of religion, whether in Established or Free Churches, suffer this book to go into the hands of young readers without entering a protest against its ecclesiastical errors. Here is one out of many examples of sheer clerical fanaticism that we have marked:—

Scotland, convulsed and disorganised in its religious settlement by the work of the Reformation, had long been without the Episcopal order and the apostolical succession. The King, who fully appreciated the importance of the Divinely-sanctioned Constitution of the Church, was anxious to restore this boon to his native land.

There is another on the very next page from which this is taken, but we must draw to a conclusion. We differ politically as well as ecclesiastically from Mr. Perry, in opinion as well as on matters of fact; but we cannot but think there are many of his own Church and habits of thought who will also differ from him in some of his conclusions. How many of the devout and Conservative clergy of the present day look back to the year 1710 as that in which "the Church of England was at the height of its power and influence"? Yet Mr. Perry affirms that, and strangely omitting all reference to spirituality of feeling and earnestness of life, gives the following reasons for saying what he does:—

It had controlled the elections, and returned a Parliament devoted to its interests. The Queen was its zealous friend and supporter. Its popularity among all classes was unbounded. The Nonconformists saw that their cause was hopeless. "So far as we," writes Dr. Calamy, "from any hopes of a coalition, that nothing will do but an entire submission." Parliament voted the erection of fifty new churches out of public funds. The House of Commons declared that it would receive the recommendations of the Lower House of Convocation with particular regard; and the clergy, with the exception of the bishops, became the ruling power in the State.

THE ORDER OF CORPORATE RE-UNION, AND THE FREEDOM OF THE CHURCH.

We are requested by the Bishop of Dorchester, O.C.R., to publish the following:—

It has long been felt that there is need of united action for the purpose of supplying certain defects, opposing certain abuses, and carrying out certain objects in the Church of England; and this feeling has led to the formation of various societies, more or less numerous and influential. Such are:—The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Church Missionary Society, the English Church Union, the Guild of St. Alban, the Home Reunion Society, the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith, and the Association for the Promotion of the Unity of Christendom, all of which extend their operations as far as possible over the entire Anglican Church.

But a new crisis has arisen with which these societies are powerless to deal; for now it is found, to the sorrow and shame of many, that the spiritual freedom of the Church, together with the actual jurisdiction of its Episcopate, is practically extinct. And having been forced by the invasion and active power of these evils to investigate more closely the whole history and condition of the Established Church since the Tudor changes, certain other defects and abuses have become evident to the founders of this order, which urgently call for remedy. The attention of Catholic Churchmen, therefore, is especially invited to the ensuing brief statement of its object and the method by which it desires to work.

The evils deplored, and which have to be contended with, are these:—

1. Extreme confusion in organisation and discipline.
2. Grave diversity of doctrinal teaching.
3. Lapse of spiritual jurisdiction.
4. Loss of the spiritual freedom of the Church.
5. Uncertainty of sacramental status, arising from the long continued prevalence of shameful neglect and carelessness in the administration of Baptism, contrary to the directions contained in the Book of Common Prayer.

6. Want of an unquestioned Episcopal succession. All these defects and evils have been carefully examined into; and, after long and prayerful deliberation, adequate remedies have, by the help of God, been secured. The rulers of this order are in a position to satisfy every person who may desire further information, that nothing which is needed for a sound dogmatic basis,—actual power of jurisdiction for the rulers of the order, spiritual freedom to worship and serve

God Almighty as did our forefathers, and certain integrity of all sacraments,—is wanting to the same.

Not only have the rulers succeeded in obtaining all these things, but they have carefully done so without adding to the existing confusion, without infringing upon the lawful rights of any, and without hastening that disintegrating and destructive process which is rapidly going on around, and which they so unfeignedly deplore.

They therefore affectionately invite all faithful Catholics in the Church of England to examine and study the principles of action of the Order. This can be done by perusal of their pastoral letter, and by personal application to their duly appointed officers. That the work of the order should be conducted in accordance with the methods laid down, it is necessary that those only should be made acquainted with the details who may be practically concerned in them. As it is desired to interfere with no one who is not willing to co-operate, so it is the strong and solemn determination of the rulers of the order not to allow anyone not concerned to interfere with them in any way. If this great work be of God, as it is believed to be, then by His help it will prosper. If not, it will soon enough come to nought without the intervention, opposition, or contrivance of man.

Finally, attention is called to the fact that certain defects and misunderstandings which have hitherto beset the path of Churchmen have constituted very serious obstacles and hindrances to the attainment of corporate re-union with other portions of the one family of God. These defects and misunderstandings are now, thanks be to the Blessed and Adorable Trinity! entirely obviated in the persons of all who enter this order. For twenty years thousands of faithful Christians have been unceasingly praying for the restoration of corporate re-union to the Churches of Christ; so that many cannot but regard the formal foundation and successful institution of this order as a direct answer to these prayers.

ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY.

THE REPEAL OF THE TEST AND CORPORATION ACTS.—The arrangements for the dinner on the 18th of June are advancing towards completion, and are referred to in our advertising columns. As many as fifty members of Parliament are already announced as stewards, and the names of other public men are being daily received. We understand that, as the number of tickets issued must be limited, it is intended to register all applications, and then to issue tickets according to the space at the committee's disposal. Special arrangements will be made for the admission of ladies.

The Protestant Bishop of Cork, Dr. Gregg, died on Friday. He was in his eightieth year, and had completed a ministry of fifty years. He became Bishop of Cork in 1862.

The *Bristol Mercury* states that the Rev. G. R. Burrows, head-master of Coleford Grammar School, and a clergyman of the Church of England, has sent a letter resigning his appointment, stating it to be his intention to join the Church of Rome.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is informed that the Church Association will move for a mandamus in the Queen's Bench against the Bishop of Oxford, calling upon his lordship to show cause why he does not allow proceedings to be taken against Canon Carter.

Mr. Thomas Hughes, Q.C., has in the press, and nearly ready for publication, a volume directed against the movement for the disestablishment of the Church of England. It will be issued immediately by Messrs. Macmillan and Co., under the title, "Our Old Church: What shall we do with it?"

PAPAL HIERARCHY IN SCOTLAND.—In the Glasgow Roman Catholic Cathedral on Thursday, Dr. MacLachlan, Bishop of Galloway, and Dr. Macdonald, Bishop of the Isles, were consecrated in connection with the new Scottish Roman Catholic hierarchy. Archbishop Eyre, of Glasgow; Bishop Strain, of Edinburgh; and Bishop Macdonald, of Aberdeen, assisted by eighty priests, took part in the ceremony.

THE BISHOPS IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—At a meeting of the Bristol branch of the English Church Union, held on Thursday night at Colston Hall, the following resolution was carried by a very large majority, five or six members voting against it:—"That this branch is of opinion that the primary reform called for in the Church is the release of the bishops from their attendance in the House of Lords, and this branch hereby urges the council to take steps to promote that reform."

THE OLD CATHOLICS OF GERMANY.—An assembly of Old Catholic deputies, about eighty in number, met on Thursday at Singen, to take counsel on the attitude they should assume at this year's Synod in relation to the questions of sacerdotal celibacy and the saying of the Mass in German. It was unanimously agreed that each could vote in favour of the abolition of priestly celibacy, and that steps should be taken to press the Synod to hurry forward the compilation and publication of the long-promised German Mass.

THE LIVING OF KENSINGTON.—The *Record* states that this living, vacant by the appointment of the Rev. W. Dalrymple MacLagan to the Bishopric of Lichfield, has been offered to and accepted by the Rev. W. Boyd Carpenter, the Evangelical vicar of St. James's, Holloway. The patron of the living is the Bishop of London, but, as is the case when a benefice is vacated by an episcopal appointment, the patronage, for this term, is vested in the Crown. According to the *Clergy List*, the income of the living is 1,650*l.* and the population 15,830. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that the above report is "unauthorised," but does not deny its accuracy.

There seems to be no doubt that it has caused much dissatisfaction among a portion of the congregation whose tendencies are of a more or less pronounced Ritualistic character.

SCOTCH DISESTABLISHMENT.—On Friday week the usual Dissenters' breakfast, in connection with the meeting of the United Presbyterian Synod, was held in Edinburgh. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Mr. France, Paisley, ex-Moderator of the United Presbyterian Synod. Hearty and vigorous addresses were delivered by several clergymen and laymen on the subject of disestablishment. The desirability of greater exertions for furthering what was described as one of the first questions of the Imperial politics of the day, was urged by the various speakers and the coming triumph of Non-conformist principles was confidently prophesied.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN SPAIN.—Most of the Madrid papers comment on the recent speech of the Minister of Justice in the Cortes, who declared his opinion to be that the term religious liberty in the Constitution of 1876 only meant liberty within the walls of churches and cemeteries, and that on no account would he allow this toleration to be extended to any manifestation or propaganda in the streets, or on the highways, or to the public teaching in schools, universities, or books, of doctrines contrary to the State religion. These latter rules will be embodied in the Education, Press, and Printing Laws to be submitted this session to the Cortes.

STONED TO DEATH IN 1877.—Several months have elapsed since the Rev. F. N. Lett, the society's agent at Buenos Ayres, sent home information that Mongiardino, the ablest and most enterprising of the South American colporteurs, had disappeared on one of his journeys, and that there was every reason to suspect he had been murdered, not so much for the money he had on his person as out of Romish hatred towards the Book and him who dared to sell and recommend it. The last mail brought sad confirmation of this fear, and shows that this noble man suffered martyrdom for the truth after a manner one had thought to be a terrible practice of the past, long since forgotten. Mr. Lett writes: "I have this additional information, that there can be no doubt that Mongiardino was murdered simply and solely on account of his being a Bible-seller, and that he was the victim of Romish fanaticism; that he sustained his high Christian character and principles to the last; that he was stoned to death, and that the assassins were suffered to escape. I wish you would let the world know that in the month of July, 1877, a veritable martyr to the Bible and Christian cause fell in Bolivia."—*Bible Society's Monthly Report.*

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD ON RITUALISM.—The Bishop of Oxford, in his charge at Aylesbury, regretted the readiness on all sides to appeal to law—a custom which had prevailed since Bishop Phillpotts first set the example. The first thing necessary was for Churchmen to cultivate a peaceful temper. He blamed the temper which would plunge the nation in the horrors of war for a point of honour or contingent interest. Could he less blame the spirit which for a vestment or a posture would lay desolate and divide the Church of God? The next thing was for men to accept some authority, whatever it be, as decisive. Nothing human, he knew, was infallible; but some way there must be of peaceable solution of difficulties, and they were entitled to ask, What way did men choose? Courts temporal and ecclesiastical might err; bishops might be wrong; synods and convocations might decree amiss; and the private opinion of a man or bishop might with show of reason condemn them all. But some limit must be assigned to the liberty of revolt. The obligation to regard the general sense of the community must be admitted.

THE GLASGOW HERESY CASE.—The Rev. Fergus Fergusson, who was recently found guilty by the United Presbyterian Presbytery of Glasgow under a libel charging him with heresy, was on Wednesday restored by the Synod sitting in Edinburgh to the exercise of his ministerial functions, with "a solemn and affectionate admonition" on the subject of his doctrinal position. The decision was adopted by a majority of 142 to 90. In a reply sent to the Synod, Mr. Fergusson says:—"As regards the fundamental doctrines of the Church, I have not been conscious of any departure from these doctrines, nor have I been able to discover any discrepancy between that which is more remote and subordinate. I beg to thank the Synod for the patience it has shown and for the great amount of time and attention it has bestowed upon the elucidation of the matters before it in this case. In accepting and submitting to its judgment I may be allowed further to say that I cannot accuse myself of carelessness in regard to modes of expression or in tendencies of thought, and certainly I shall not have less solicitude as to these points in the future than I have had in the past."

CASE OF THE REV. A. H. MACKONCHIE.—The parishioners of St. Alban's, Holborn, are about to present to the Bishop of London a "declaration," which has received a large number of signatures, protesting against "the continued interference of a non-parishioner with the Rev. A. H. Mackonchie in the performance of Divine service in the parish church."

CLERICAL LAWBREAKERS.—Lord Devon on Thursday presided at the annual meeting of the local branch of the English Church Union at Newton Abbot, South Devon, when the following resolutions were passed:—"1. That that Devon District Union of the English Church Union desires to express its sympathy with the Rev. J.

Edwards in the suffering which he has been called upon to bear in the long protracted prosecution under the Church Discipline Act, and in the sentence of suspension recently passed on him." "2. That the Devon District Union of the English Church Union expresses its earnest satisfaction that the Rev. J. Edwards has taken this opportunity of vindicating the liberties of the Church of England by refusing to recognise in any way the sentence of suspension *à sacris* pronounced against him by Lord Penzance for disobedience to the decisions of the Privy Council in the Purchas and Ridsdale cases."

CANON RYLE ON CHURCH CONGRESSES.—At the conference of Evangelical clergy at Southport on Thursday, Canon Ryle read a paper on Church congresses, in which he strongly condemned Evangelical abstention from these assemblies. The great cause of much of the estrangement between Churchmen was, he said, the result of their not meeting each other face to face on neutral ground. Such neutral ground a congress platform afforded, and for that, among other reasons, he thought they did good by attending them. He believed that their attendance had dispelled a vast amount of prejudice, and had disabused the minds of many High Churchmen and Broad-Churchmen of many false impressions. He further advised Evangelical clergymen to attend the congress for the sake of the thousands of undecided and uncommitted Churchmen who always attended, for he believed that the absence of the Evangelical clergy was calculated to do great harm. If they went, he believed the laity would generally support them; but if they kept away he believed they would be disappointed and disheartened. He asked them to beware of narrow-mindedness in their judgment both of rivals and friends. He saw narrow-mindedness in the unwillingness of some to allow that any truth was preached or good done except by Evangelical clergymen and members of their own school. Some people believed that all the sermons of non-Evangelical clergymen were unsound. They had no right to suppose anything of the kind. The supposition was neither just, nor generous, nor correct. There were scores of English clergymen who did not profess to belong to the Evangelical school who preached as sound Gospel as the Evangelical clergymen.

THE EMPEROR ON RELIGION IN GERMANY.—In reply to the congratulations of the Brandenburg Protestant Synod, the Emperor of Germany on Wednesday observed that he was deeply moved by the sympathy shown him in all parts of the Fatherland and in foreign countries. Misguided people in these times were holding forth against religion, leading men astray and destroying the foundations of morality. He was a staunch adherent of the Protestant Evangelical Church of the kingdom. He condemned no man who had earnest religious convictions, though they might not be his own. He hoped that error would gradually decrease, and that the debates of the synod would be marked by a temperate and conciliatory tone. The chaplain to the Imperial family, M. Baur, preached on Wednesday last a sermon in the Cathedral of Berlin, before the Emperor and the Imperial family, in which he spoke of the present state of morality, or rather immorality, in Prussia in very strong terms. "Affection, faith, and the Word of God are now unknown in this country," the chaplain said, "in this our great German Fatherland, which formerly justly was called the home of the faith. On the contrary, it really seems as if it were the father of all lies who now is worshipped in Prussia. What formerly was considered generous and noble is now looked upon with contempt, and theft and swindling are called by the euphonic word 'business,' leading merchants openly declaring that some transactions are bordering on felony. Marriages are concluded without the blessing of the Church—concluded 'on trial,' to be broken if found not to answer. We still have a Sunday, but it is only a Sunday in name, as the people work during the church hours and spend the afternoon and evening in rioting in the public-houses and music-halls; while the upper classes rush to the races, preferring to hear the panting of the tortured horses to hearing the Word of God, which is ridiculed in the press and turned into blasphemy in the popular assemblies, while the servants of God are insulted daily."

THE BISHOPS AND THE "REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH."—Most assuredly no antiquarian protest about Donatists and Novatians, such as the learned Bishop of Lincoln might compile, will meet the case. Nor will any protest about schismatical intrusions, nor any threatenings, abate the mischief. In justice to the new body, it is right to say that they have not palmed themselves off to be what they are not. The Archbishop of Canterbury remarked that "there was a sort of pretension of being the Church of England." This is scarcely accurate. Their claim is rather that they are what the Church of England ought to be. The true remedy for getting rid of them will not be a recital of lofty counter pretensions, but the enforcement of godly discipline. It is idle to say that a spirit of disloyalty cannot be checked, that hankering after Romanism cannot be discountenanced, and that what is distinctively English cannot be upheld, if those who have the power show themselves in earnest about the matter. Law is not yet a defunct thing in England. The new movement, small in its proportions, now has in it the elements of extensive progress. It would be quite within the power of our pulpit to extinguish it in its present stage by judicious action. If the English laity felt that their Bishops would honestly and cheerfully protect them against foolish

clergymen, they would naturally turn to them instead of to strangers. But if complainants are snubbed and offenders are shielded, the laity will seek out the new comers. It is a proof of love to the Church of England, its Articles and its Liturgy, and of distinct preference of Episcopacy over other forms of Church government, that the new Church has found such ready acceptance. It has this advantage, that in the retention of the Episcopate, even if irregular, there lies a prospect or a possibility of future reunion. Anyhow, if father confessors are fostered in English parishes, if Romish ritual, whether under the plea of Sarum or any other use distinctly disavowed in the Church's formularies, is practised in them, if priests are to be worshipped, the English laity will find bishops and ministers for themselves, even if all the prelates in England were to excommunicate them with bell, book, and candle.—*The Record.*

Religious and Denominational News.

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

An interesting gathering was held at the Devonshire House Hotel yesterday morning of friends and others interested in special religious services to meet Mr. S. Morley, M.P., Mr. Ernest Tritton, and Mr. Alderman Fowler. After breakfast the chair was taken by Mr. Samuel Morley, who called upon Mr. Lloyd Harris to make a statement on behalf of the committee engaged in carrying out the special religious services in connection with theatres, halls, and mission-rooms. It appeared that the committee had just completed the nineteenth course of winter services in the Britannia Theatre, Pavilion, Philharmonic, Park, Royal Amphitheatre, South London Palace, Victoria Rink, Shoreditch Town Hall, St. James's Hall, and Regent-street; and that, in addition to the 1,800*l.* already received, they find an additional 900*l.* must be obtained before October next to enable them to commence a new course free of all debt. Upwards of one hundred and thirty different mission-rooms, mostly new efforts, have been aided on various occasions by the special fund raised by the committee a few years back.

Mr. MORLEY, M.P., then dwelt on the need of special effort to overtake the religious needs of the age. They were not met to appeal for money, though they should be glad of a few bank-notes any gentleman might have to spare, but he would rather impress on them the privilege of labouring in such a work, and then they would be sure of the money. They had met that morning to help each other and to create sympathy. Such gatherings had a beneficial effect, and he was glad to find that a great change was coming over the Friends as regarded public services. He believed the common people never heard the Gospel so gladly as they did at the present time. He did not care about getting the people to attend a Congregational chapel, though he believed that system was an excellent one, but he wanted them to be reached by the Gospel. It had been calculated that of every hundred who could attend a place of worship in London, there were fifty-eight who did not, and that if they did put in an appearance at places of worship, the number of extra sittings required would be 800,000. Such facts were appalling, and showed the need of increased effort. If they were told of such a state of things as existing in some remote island, a great meeting would be held on the subject, and Exeter Hall would be crowded. He hoped one result of that meeting would be to induce some of the friends present to come and preach on the platform of a theatre. He had been one of the first to lift up his voice on behalf of what were called irregular services; and he must confess that he did not feel pleased to think that, whilst they were doing so much for the heathen abroad, that there was a danger of neglecting the heathen at home.

Mr. ERNEST TRITTON followed with an account of mission work in Parker-street, Drury-lane. The work was a very captivating one, as it went down to the lowest strata of London society, and they got at a residuum such as the hardest working clergyman had no idea of. Every Sunday afternoon they had 500 of the most depraved and destitute of the London poor, and so migratory were these men—many of whom were fresh from gaol—that they had 100 new faces every week. They had also week evening services well attended, and there was much other work besides. A mission hall implied a mothers' meeting, a Band of Hope, a Gospel Temperance Society, and a penny bank. From their mission hall a band of agents went singing Moody and Sankey hymns in the low lodging-houses all round. A mission hall was an oasis in the desert.

Mr. N. B. DOWNING, who had preached all the winter in the Pavilion Theatre, where the congregation had increased from 500 to 2,000, and who could speak of seventy cases of conversion, described the way in which just before the service they went about the streets as much as possible to compel the people to come in. They were obliged to act in that way as the audience existed chiefly of men and women from the neighbouring courts and streets, where the public opinion of the place tabooed any one who went to a place of worship. At St. James's Hall, where he had also preached, he had a better class of hearers from a social point of view, and he, Mr. Downing, was astonished at the amount of lay talent dormant in the Christian

churches of London. Around our fine gothic chapels he contended that there should be a chain of mission-halls.

The Rev. W. CUFF spoke of the wonderful influence produced among the poor, when men like Mr. Morley or the Earl of Shaftesbury came and spoke a few words amongst them. If the rich and the well-to-do thus came into personal contact with the poor, London would be revolutionised. He had been much aided by the City Mission in preaching in Shoreditch Town Hall, where, after four Sundays, they had an audience of 2,000. Since his ministry he had received a 1,000 individuals into church membership, and, living as he did in the midst of the people, he saw how Sunday trading had been stopped, the barrow removed, and the shop shut up, not by preaching against Sunday trading, but by proclaiming the Gospel of the grace of God, and these poor people were amongst the most liberal supporters of Christ's cause. For six years they had paid 250*l.* for the use of the Shoreditch Town Hall.

Mr. JOHN TAYLOR intimated that, although, owing to peculiar circumstances, there was a small attendance of friends, they were not to judge of the influence of such a meeting by the numbers present. He contended that in mission work he found that marvellous Christian union which was so absent elsewhere, and for lack of which they were so often taunted. He also contended that it was a work, not for mere beginners, but worthy of the most mature Christians. It was the highest field in which a man could engage. Mr. SAWELL having referred to the aid given him in the early days of theatre preaching by Mr. Samuel Gurney, Mr. SAMUEL BOWLY, of Gloucester, to whom Mr. Morley had warmly alluded in the course of his opening speech, bore his testimony in favour of irregular agencies, admitted that the Friends were getting a little less strait-laced in this respect, and protested against priestcraft in any shape. After Mr. Morley had acknowledged the vote of thanks, the meeting closed with prayer.

The Rev. E. Hinchcliffe Higgins, of Kettering, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of Maze Hill Congregational Church, Greenwich.

The Rev. J. Harcourt, after five years' ministry with the Baptist Church, Berkhamstead, has accepted an invitation to a church at Wandsworth, much to the regret of his people.

BERKSHIRE.—The anniversary of the Congregational Mission to the villages in the vale of Berkshire was held at Fernham, near Faringdon, on Thursday, May 23rd. The Rev. G. S. Reaney, of Reading, preached the usual sermon. At the public meeting Charles J. Andrews, J.P., presided. The Revs. G. S. Reaney, J. Jeffries, E. George, Charles Wright, T. C. Udall, and Wm. Mack, Esq., of Bristol, took part in the meeting, which was held in a large barn, and was largely attended, people from most of the neighbouring villages being present.

SPITALFIELDS SILK WEAVERS.—The treaty of commerce with France was the death-blow to the trade of the Spitalfields weavers, and there are now very few of them to be found in that locality. Most of them were descendants of the Huguenots, and when they were a numerous body a Christian society was formed amongst them, and for more than thirty years past they have worshipped at a little chapel adjacent to the Bethnal-green-road, called Jehovah Jireh. The building being in a very dilapidated condition has been recently rebuilt at a cost of over 1,000*l.*, and an effort is now being made to secure funds for building new class-rooms on a vacant piece of ground adjoining the chapel and with a frontage to the Bethnal-green-road. A meeting in furtherance of that object was held last Wednesday evening at Cannon-street Hotel, presided over by the Rev. W. Tyler, and addressed by the chairman, the Revs. I. V. Mummery, J. De Kewer Williams, John Townley, Mr. H. Webb, and others, by whom the work carried on at the chapel was warmly commended. Besides the usual missionary operations, a singing band visit Victoria Park on Sunday evening, and copies of the hymns sung have been distributed to the extent of 160,000, besides 90,000 tracts and handbills. Amongst the contributors to the building fund are Messrs. S. Morley, M.P., Baring Brothers, J. R. Mills, H. Webb, Rev. D. Blow (treasurer), &c.

CHRIST CHURCH, WESTMINSTER-ROAD.—A large number of the Rev. Newman Hall's congregation met on Wednesday evening at this church to celebrate their pastor's birthday, and to present him with a new pulpit, which has been subscribed for exclusively by them in recognition of the rev. gentleman's labours. After tea the meeting adjourned to the church, the altar-steps of which were decorated with a number of flowers and plants, which gave a refreshing aspect to the interior, and which, it may be mentioned, perpetuates a pleasing custom in vogue during Mr. Hall's occupancy of Surrey Chapel. Mr. Hadland presided, and entered briefly into the facts connected with the special character of the gathering, and after some addresses from gentlemen on the platform interested in the movement, chiefly elders and trustees of the church, the pulpit was uncovered and formally handed over to Mr. Hall, by whom the gift was suitably acknowledged. A few additional speeches closed what proved to be a pleasant reunion. The new pulpit, a handsome structure in the Gothic style, is composed of upwards of five hundred separate pieces of marble and alabaster, and bears the following inscription:—"This pulpit was erected by the congregation in loving recognition of the labours of their pastor, the Rev. Newman Hall,

LL.B., by whom the greater part of the funds for the erection of this church and the adjoining hall were obtained, and to whose faithful ministry, under the Divine blessing, they attribute the prosperity of the church and its institutions. May 22, 1878. 'We preach Christ crucified.'"

WESLEYAN MAY DISTRICT MEETINGS.—Nearly all these important Connexional committees have been held, and there appears to have been in them more than the usual amount of unanimity and good feeling. The chief division of opinion has been about the revision of the Book of Offices, but the overwhelming majority appear to be in favour of some revision. The new arrangements connected with the attendance of the laymen in the district committees seems to answer exceedingly well, judging from their increased attendance and the interest which they take in Methodist affairs. The Hull district passed a resolution, almost unanimously, in favour of the admission of the sons of the laymen into Kingswood and Woodhouse Grove Schools. The chief new subjects to be dealt with by the various committees were the pastoral oversight of the young, the revision of the Book of Offices, and fresh arrangements for the home mission department, including the separation from it of the yearly collection. The Liverpool district was the only district unfavourable to the revision of the Liturgy, but there was great difference of opinion upon the subject in the first London district. The following districts have adopted the recommendations, with certain alterations, of the committees for the revision of the Liturgy and the pastoral oversight of the young:—Nottingham, Hull, Leeds, Newcastle, Norwich and Lynn, Birmingham, Bristol, Devonport, Edinburgh, Exeter, Sheffield, York, Bath, Bedford and Northampton, Oxford, Bolton, Cornwall, Macclesfield, Manchester, Portsmouth, and Swansea. Two or three of the districts ask that the Covenant Service may be remodelled, and one asks that responses for the people may be inserted.

CROYDON NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—The new place of worship erected in George-street, Croydon, was opened for public worship on Tuesday, May 21. The buildings are of a very complete character, providing accommodation for all kinds of church and Sunday-school work. The church itself is 108*ft.* in length and 54*ft.* in width, and provides accommodation for 1,000 people, about 800 on the ground-floor and more than 200 in an end gallery. The schools on the basement-floor are very extensive, and complete in their fittings. The chief room is large and lofty, and attached to it are eleven class-rooms, holding from fifteen to fifty scholars each, and the infants' class-room will hold 200, and is quite cut off from the school, having a separate approach. The total capacity of the school and class-rooms for teaching in well-separated classes amounts to about 1,000 children, and as a public meeting-room the school will seat 600, it being well adapted for that purpose. The designs for the building have been prepared by Mr. John Sulman, A.R.I.B.A., architect, of 16, Farnival's Inn. At the opening service at noon on Tuesday there was a large attendance. The dedicatory prayer was offered by the Rev. J. C. Harrison, and the Revs. W. Clarkson and J. Halsey took part in the services. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Dale, M.A., of Birmingham. After the service there was a cold collation in the school-room, J. Kemp Welch, Esq., presiding. The toast of "The Queen" having been loyally honoured, Mr. Johns, the treasurer, read the financial statement, from which it appeared that the total cost of the buildings was about 11,900*l.*, towards which nearly 6,000*l.* had been raised by collections, promises, sale of the materials of the old chapel, &c., but a loss had been sustained which reduced these assets to 5,674*l.*, leaving a deficit of about 6,300*l.* The chairman, in proposing "Prosperity to this Church," praised the beauty and admirable arrangements of the buildings, and especially the ample provision made for Sunday-schools. In the difficulties in which the church and congregation were placed, he thought some of them would have to double their contributions. To provide a nucleus of a fund for clearing off the debt, he should be happy to give 200*l.* if two or three friends around him would imitate his example. Mr. James Spicer being called upon, said he felt deeply obliged to the chairman and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy with him, and said he was quite recovered from the illness to which reference had been made. He greatly regretted the disruption that had taken place amongst them since the memorial-stone was laid in the May of last year, and said he should be happy to accept the challenge of the chairman and add 200*l.* to the contribution which he had previously made. (Cheers.) They had now a building which was a credit to their neighbourhood, and he trusted that the pulpit would be occupied by a pastor who would bring to the work the highest qualifications. Mr. W. R. Spicer rejoiced to see so large and respectable a building erected for Congregational worship in Croydon. The work, as completed, was a credit to all concerned, and he felt sure that the congregation which there assembled would be a power for good in the neighbourhood. He was particularly pleased with the capacious schoolroom and the cosy class-rooms. He should be happy to follow the example which had been set, by contributing a further sum of 200*l.*, in addition to his former subscription to the building fund. (Cheers.) The Rev. Joshua Harrison said he rejoiced to see on this occasion two brothers whom he had known in early life thus testifying their hearty interest in the progress of Congregationalism, which he believed to be the

best conservator of Evangelical truth. He regarded it as an omen for good that the pulpit had been occupied by Mr. Dale, who, with all the vigour of his manly intellect, and the warmth of his truly noble heart, had boldly stood on the old lines, and preached the old Gospel. The Rev. J. G. Rogers, B.A., said he felt that the future of this church would largely depend on the choice which they made of a pastor. In the Congregational Union they had just passed through a period of anxiety; but that trouble had, he believed, been productive of much good, by leading Congregationalists better to understand each other's feelings, and the result had been new strength. He believed with Mr. Harrison that Congregationalism was one of the great conservators of Evangelical truth, but he believed also that Evangelical truth was the essential conservator of Congregationalism. Without Evangelical truth they would not have any Congregational churches at all. If the distinction between those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ and those who do not was to be lost, there would be no reason why, as churches, they should exist at all, and, in truth, they would soon cease to exist. Mr. Johns read a list of donations, from which it appeared that a sum closely approaching 1,700*l.* had been raised in connection with the opening services. After expressing the obligations which the congregation felt to various Nonconformist ministers for the sympathy which they had evinced towards them, especially naming the Revs. J. G. Rogers, W. Clarkson, and T. Gilfillan, he concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Mr. James Spicer, carried by acclamation, and briefly acknowledged. The proceedings were then brought to a close. The sermon in the evening was preached by the Rev. J. G. Rogers; several other ministers also took part in the services.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

It is stated that Mr. Gladstone has at last definitively announced his intention of accepting the invitation of the Liberals of Edinburgh, and contesting that city, in conjunction with Mr. Duncan M'Laren, at the next election. Mr. Cowan will retire in his favour.

Mr. Thomas Hughes, Q.C., who has consented to stand as Liberal candidate for Salisbury, addressed a meeting of the electors on Thursday. He strongly censured the action of the Government in regard to the employment of Indian troops in Europe, and said that for the first time, he believed, in English history a deliberate breach had been made by the Conservative Government in the great cardinal principles of the British Constitution. The present was a tremendous crisis for this country, and he advocated the two great watchwords of the Liberal party—namely, peace and retrenchment.

It is stated in a letter to the *Times* in reference to the recent contest for the representation of Oxford University, that of the professors and readers twenty-eight voted for Smith, eleven for Talbot; six did not vote. Of the other Oxford teachers, the tutors and lecturers of colleges and halls, ninety-one were for Smith, thirty-nine for Talbot; thirteen did not vote. Of fellows of colleges (including non-residents) 159 were for Smith, eighty-two for Talbot; fifty-three were neutral or absent. Of members of congregation qualified by residence, 152 were for Smith, 117 for Talbot; forty-four for neither.

There appears to be no probability of Mr. Watkins Williams becoming a candidate for Newcastle-on-Tyne at the next general election. Mr. Williams is still unpledged to any constituency.

It is stated that a special effort will be made at the next election by the teetotal party in Hull to secure the return of a gentleman to represent their views in Parliament. Mr. Norwood not having come up to their expectation. Several candidates have been selected, among whom are Messrs. Angus Holden, Halifax; E. Priestman, Bradford; Arthur Pease, Darlington; Alderman Tatham, Leeds; and Alderman H. J. Atkinson, Hull, who has already unsuccessfully contested the borough.

Several electors at Tamworth have signed a letter to the *Times* on the subject of the statement alleged to have been made by three out of the four proposers and seconders of Mr. Hamer Bass at the late election, that in electing Mr. Hamer Bass they did not wish to condemn the present Eastern policy of the Government, but, on the contrary, they approve of it. The letter says that while this statement may represent the views of the persons who made it, it does not to any appreciable degree represent the feelings of the supporters of Mr. H. Bass.

The poem by George Eliot, which will appear in the July number of *Macmillan's Magazine*, will, says the *Athenaeum*, be entitled "A College Breakfast Party."

The forthcoming number of the *Nineteenth Century* will contain an important article by Midhat Pasha on the past, present, and future of Turkey; a paper by Sir Thomas Watson, "On Small-pox and Compulsory Vaccination," and an article by Mr. Gladstone entitled "Liberty in the East."

The Rev. Mark Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, is preparing a life of Milton for a Series of Biographies of English writers.

Messrs. William Collins, Sons and Co. are to issue Shakespeare's "King John," together with "The Troublesome Reign of King John," as acted by the Queen's Players c. 1589. Edited, with Notes and Introductions, by the Rev. F. G. Fleay.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1878.

THE WEEK.

THERE is now no doubt that Count Schouvaloff's mission to St. Petersburg has proved successful. The information brought back by his Excellency has been considered with satisfactory results at several meetings of the British Cabinet, and on Monday night both Houses of Parliament were informed that the prospects of a Congress being held have materially improved. It is expected that after a meeting of Her Majesty's Ministers to be held this afternoon, the invitation to the Congress which has been issued by the Berlin Government will be formally accepted, and instructions drawn up for the guidance of Lord Lyons, the English representative. It seems that the whole of the San Stefano "Preliminary Treaty" will be submitted to the Congress with a view to such revision as may make it a European settlement. As Count Schouvaloff has been the means of bringing about an understanding between our Government and the St. Petersburg Cabinet as to the general changes which are to be made in that Treaty, the difficulties of the Congress, which is expected to meet about the middle of June, are not expected to be very formidable, nor its deliberations protracted. When the basis of a European settlement has been laid, it is believed that the plenipotentiaries will suspend their sittings for a time, and leave the details to be worked out by the resident Ministers of the signatory Powers, subject to the subsequent ratification of the Congress.

While substantially endorsing the alterations in the Treaty required by the British Cabinet, Austria has other demands to make for the protection of her own interests, especially in relation to Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia. These will be duly submitted to the Congress, and probably accepted by Russia. But the Vienna Government are preparing to back up their claims with a display of physical force. According to the statement made yesterday by Count Andrassy to the Delegations, Austria will take up her own independent position, and is preparing for eventualities. The unprotected state of the frontiers of Dalmatia and Transylvania, as well as the uncertainties of the future, require that several army corps shall be placed on a war footing, to effect which the Credit Vote of six millions sterling will be applied. The Austrian Chancellor stated that the Government will enter Congress with the object, as before, of preserving the peace of Europe, but, at the same time, with a full determination to protect the interests of Austria-Hungary as well as those of Europe generally. Before permission is granted for the expenditure of the Credit Vote, it is expected that the entire Eastern Question will be discussed by both Delegations.

During the past week there has been little cessation of anxiety at Constantinople. The danger of a collision owing to the closer proximity of the Russian and Turkish forces has been diminished by the appointment of a commission to decide upon lines of demarcation between the two armies, and by the better news from St. Petersburg. The recent demands of General Todleben relative to the ceded fortresses, the extension of the Russian lines, the serious riot in connection with Murad, his deposed predecessor, and the burning down of the "Sublime Porte"—that is, of the entire range of Government offices—have produced a serious effect upon the weak but well-meaning Sultan. As usual, a change of Ministry has followed. The office of Grand Vizier has been resuscitated, and Rushdi Pasha, a man of no particular mark, has been appointed to the post, while Ahmed Damad, the Sultan's brother-in-law, has been recalled to favour and made Minister of War. In these changes, as well as in the determined attempt of the Porte to crush the insurgents of Crete before the meeting of the

Congress, we see that the old Turkish system of rule, with its incurable vices, is still in full operation. If the nett results of Lord Beaconsfield's grand policy should be to perpetuate and strengthen this iniquitous régime, the various races subject to the Porte will have no reason to thank his lordship.

We greatly regret to record the decease of Earl Russell, which took place at his residence at Richmond, at a late hour last night. His lordship, who had nearly attained the patriarchal age of eighty-six, has gone to his rest full of honours, and amid the profound respect and veneration of a country which he has faithfully served as a statesman and philanthropist during the protracted period of sixty-three years. We have neither time nor space at present to remark on his public life and services.

We have commented elsewhere on the conclusion of the great debate on the constitutional question raised by the Marquis of Hartington as to the employment of Indian troops by the Crown without the previous consent of Parliament. The division, which took place early on Friday morning, showed the unexpectedly large majority of 121 in favour of the Government, in a House of 547 members. With the exception of Mr. Newdegate, the Tory party voted in a body for Ministers, and their numbers were swelled by about a score of Liberals and eight Home-Rulers. But the protest of 226 members, including all the leaders of the Liberal party, against the course pursued relative to the Indian troops, will have a moral influence which no majority can counteract. Lord Hartington can have no reason to regret having taken the decided course of moving his constitutional resolution.

The House of Commons was in no mood to renew the conflict on Monday, when the supplementary estimate came on for consideration. Mr. Fawcett being precluded from moving his amendment, "That this House, in view of the recent movement of Indian troops to Europe, is of opinion that a larger army is maintained in India than is required for her security and defence," Sir George Campbell, who had the priority, proposed that a select committee should be appointed to inquire into the cost of Her Majesty's Indian troops serving beyond the old Indian limits east of the Cape of Good Hope; to which the Government promptly consented. This did not, however, prevent another shower of protests—Mr. Gladstone vigorously supporting the malcontents—against the policy of the Government, which ended in a division. A great part of the Liberal party, headed by their leaders, walked out of the House, and only forty members remained to vote against the motion that the Speaker should leave the chair.

The amount of the supplementary vote for the contingent of 6,000 Indian troops is 760,000*l.*, of which the two largest items—350,000*l.* for pay, provisions, and equipments, and 398,000*l.* for transport charges—were voted on Monday night without a division. Nearly all the troops have now arrived at Malta, where they will no doubt remain till the Berlin Congress has substantially completed its labours. The country will be fortunate if the cost of the expedition—for the expense of the return passage is as yet unprovided for—does not exceed a million sterling. The country also will not fail to remember that the order to send these Indian troops to the Mediterranean was based upon information received by the Government—we suppose from Mr. Layard—which afterwards, as Mr. Cross confesses, proved to be incorrect.

Now that there is a definite prospect of the meeting of a Congress and an amicable arrangement of differences with Russia, the expectation has become general at Westminster that, should the Eastern Question be settled at Berlin, Lord Beaconsfield will speedily dissolve Parliament and appeal to the country for a renewed vote of confidence in his Administration. It is to be hoped that Liberals and the friends of religious equality will everywhere be prepared for such a contingency.

There appear to be no present signs of a termination of the strike and lock-out in North-East Lancashire. The proposal made by a friend of the operatives, that the men should return to work at ten per cent. reduction till trade improved, on which a ballot was taken towards the close of last week, was rejected by an overwhelming majority in Blackburn, Burnley, Accrington, and other towns. Since then the masters have unanimously rejected another offer of mediation—this time from Lord Bateman—on the ground that the position of the cotton trade is such as to preclude the possibility of reopening the mills at a less reduction in wages than ten per cent. The pressing question for the employers is (says Colonel Jackson) how to conduct their business without ruinous loss, and if this cannot be done, their only alternative seems to be a temporary withdrawal from its risks, and it is their general wish not to meet again till they see signs that the operatives are willing to accept their terms. Throughout the district where the cotton manufacture is suspended the distress is increasing, as is also bitterness of feeling, while the military sent to Blackburn and other places where scenes of violence lately occurred, are retained. We fear it cannot be doubted that the operatives have taken a most mistaken course, which can only end in submission after much unnecessary suffering. It has been shown by a careful calculation that the masters' proposal of ten per cent. reduction and working full time would be not only better for themselves but for the operatives, than the workmen's own plan of ten per cent. reduction and working four days a week. The case, as arithmetically worked out, is thus stated:—

A weaver earning 30*s.* per week would by the master's plan receive 27*s.* per week, which would entail a loss of 1*l.* 19*s.* in three months; but by the workmen's plan he would receive only 18*s.* per week, and would lose 7*l.* 16*s.* in three months. Supposing trade to revive by the end of three months, and full wages again to be obtainable, the loss entailed by the master's plan would be recovered in three months, but that entailed by the workmen's plan would only be recovered in twelve months.

The long continuance of wet weather, which has gone far to mar the London season, is beginning to excite the fears of agriculturists. Mr. Mechi, who a month ago wrote in so sanguine a strain, now tells us that "heavy downpours, night frosts, a generally low temperature, and absence of sunshine have given a sickly cast to the plants, and diminished the prospective estimates of an abundant wheat crop by eight to twelve bushels per acre." "There is," says this experienced farmer, "abundance of vegetation, but it begins to look unhealthy so far as the corn crops are concerned, and wants sunshine and dry weather to mature it." It is as yet early to forecast the future. Sunshine may come in due time and scatter our gloom. Last year we had a dry May and a wet July. Possibly the conditions may now be reversed; in which case we may hope that the wheat will recover, and, falsifying the "old saying" on the subject, that a good harvest added to an abundant hay crop may be in store for us.

The proposal of Prince Bismarck—or rather of the reactionary party in the Emperor William's Court, to whom he has been obliged to yield—for the suppression of Socialism by law, in consequence of the criminal act of Hoedel, the journeyman tinsmith, has met with little response in the German Parliament. The bill brought forward by Minister Hoffman was strongly opposed by the National Liberals as uncalled for, and likely to be ineffectual, and the Government were charged with first displaying marked leniency towards the Socialistic movement; then proposing measures aiming at absolute and immediate suppression, which could only aggravate matters; and lastly with neglecting to put in force existing laws which were amply sufficient for the emergency. The first clause of the bill having on Friday last been rejected by a vote of nearly three to one—only about eighty members voting in its favour—the measure was withdrawn, and shortly after the session of the Parliament was closed. Public opinion is decidedly adverse to the repressive policy favoured by the Government, but there is reason to fear that the Emperor has given way to a panic which, if allowed to have full play, will endanger the constitutional freedom of the German people, and bring into power the ultra-Conservatives, who would fain govern the Empire without the aid of a Parliament.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY NIGHT.

The great debate on the question of the legality of the movement of the Indian troops came to a close on Friday morning in a large division. Not for many years have so many members been brought together in response to the whip of either side. Immense exertions were made by the Conservatives to bring up their men. The sick, the halt, and the blind (the last a category within which many Conservatives fall) were brought in, and there was even some talk of sending for Mr. Dawson Damer. They stopped short of this, however, and the Conservative majority was less by one than it would have been had the gallant gentleman who represents Port Darlington been drawn from his retirement. Another distinguished Conservative who was prevented from being present was Lord John Manners. The Postmaster-General is seriously ill, and Lord Beaconsfield is said to entertain some anxiety as to the condition of his old friend, the companion of his younger days when Sidonia lived, and Sydney graced the well-carpeted halls of his ancestral home.

In many respects the debate on Thursday night was the best of the series of three nights—always excepting that on which Mr. Gladstone delivered what both friends and foes agree in describing as not only infinitely the crowning speech of the debate, but one of the best even Mr. Gladstone has made. Mr. Cross, who opened the debate on Thursday, made a speech in his best style. The right hon. gentleman, who is a man of strong common-sense, is sometimes led away by the enthusiasm of the Jingoism around him. On Thursday he had had time carefully to prepare his address, and delivering it at half-past four in the afternoon he was not subjected to that electrical atmosphere which surrounds Her Majesty's Ministers when they speak on the Eastern Question at an hour when their supporters have dined. Mr. Cross was followed by Mr. Herschell, one of the few rising young men on the Liberal benches. Then came Mr. Roebuck, whose fragile form had been observed throughout the earlier stages of the debate waiting for an opportunity to deliver a speech. Mr. Roebuck did not say anything new; his defence of the Government, and particularly his personal attack on Mr. Gladstone, having been heard over and over again in the course of this and other debates. But there are traditions lingering around the old man which make his intervention in debate memorable, and, of course, he spoke amid a loud chorus of Ministerial cheers. Chiefly on account of his age, and partly because of a desire to deal generously with an adversary who, having delivered a speech at any time of the night, would not have sufficient vigour left to reply to critical observation, members on the Liberal side have rarely taken any notice of Mr. Roebuck's cantankerous remarks. On Thursday an exception was made, first by Mr. Waddy—who will have something to say to Mr. Roebuck at the next election at Sheffield—next by Sir Henry James, and finally by the Marquis of Hartington. The remarks of each of these members went to the same inevitable end—namely, to show of what little value were the remarks of a man who throughout a long political career had lost no opportunity of saying nasty things about anybody, more particularly against the Government of the day. Mr. Waddy showed how Mr. Roebuck had actually condemned in words not less strong than those used on Thursday night the employment of Indian troops, which he now defended.

Later at night, or rather early on Friday morning, just on the eve of the division, Mr. Roebuck returned to the House, and accidentally became the object of considerable attention and much subsequent remark. He has, since his last election, contracted a cheerful habit of laying claim to a particular seat below the gangway, and makes no apology for turning out any member whom he may find there. The process of obtaining particular seats in the House of Commons is one entailing some labour, it being necessary that a member should be in his place at prayer-time. Prayer-time has no special attractions for Mr. Roebuck, and since he has been allowed to obtain his favourite seat at the expense of other people's trouble, he has not for many sessions presented himself during the service. The seat is one which Mr. Dillwyn, one of the most constant attendants in the House, generally occupies. But he has been content to surrender it to Mr. Roebuck—I cannot say when he asks for it, for he does not go through the ceremony, but—when he takes it. On Thursday, however, there seemed good reasons why Mr. Dillwyn should not put himself to the great inconvenience of abandoning the seat

when the chances of finding one elsewhere were exceedingly remote. He had given his seat up early in the evening, and Mr. Roebuck had used it to deliver a speech, in which he vilified gentlemen in whose neighbourhood he sat, personally attacked Mr. Gladstone, and had, generally, sung a Tory psalm. Mr. Roebuck was now coming back to vote with Ministers, and it occurred to Mr. Dillwyn that, under the circumstances he had better find a seat on the other side. Mr. Roebuck finding what in Parliamentary phrase is called the "usual facilities" denied him, walked back, and stood at the bar a moment, a position from which he was relieved by an offer simultaneously made by Mr. Gorst and Mr. Reginald Yorke of a seat on the Conservative benches. This he took, and loud cheers from both sides of the House testified to the general satisfaction of this readjustment of matters. The incident has created much remark, and has, I observe, in a somewhat violent local paper, been tortured into a representation of discourtesy on the part of Mr. Dillwyn towards Mr. Roebuck. Mr. Dillwyn, in a private letter, has assured Mr. Roebuck that no discourtesy was meant, and has explained to him the case as I have stated it above.

There were confident anticipations of a count-out on Friday night, after the prolonged sitting of the previous night. But the House somewhat unexpectedly got into Committee of Supply, lapsing from that into the Irish Sunday Closing Bill, on which they remained at work till nearly three o'clock on the following morning. To-night Mr. Fawcett has not found a desirable opportunity of bringing forward his motion affirming that since India can spare troops for the assistance of England, the military expenditure of the country must stand at too high a figure. Nevertheless the subject of the Indian troops has been debated at length, several members, notably Sir George Bowyer, seizing the opportunity to deliver speeches which had missed fire during the long debate of last week. But whilst there was a general disposition to regard the matter as settled by the division on Friday morning, a further quietus to hostile discussion has been given by the announcement made in both Houses to-night that the prospects of the meeting of a Congress had "materially improved within the last few days." A division was taken on the motion that the Speaker should leave the chair, but only forty members were found to oppose it. This was decisive. The vote for the Indian troops passed through committee without a division, and with no debate save on the question of cost of transports.

THE CROWN AND THE INDIAN FORCES.

The House of Commons was crowded on Thursday afternoon in expectation of the resumption of the debate on Lord Hartington's resolution. The Crown Prince of Germany and other distinguished persons occupied seats over the clock.

Mr. Cross, who was the first speaker, said that if the Government had done wrong it was matter for Parliament, and not for the Commons alone. He wanted to know how that which calls for a formal resolution in the Lower House can be worth only an expression of opinion in the Upper. He justified the secrecy with which the movement of the Indian troops had been conducted upon the ground that it was absolutely essential that the operation should be carried out before a certain time, and that, there being doubts as to whether local difficulties could be surmounted, it would have been the height of folly for the Government to acquaint the world with their intentions before the action which they contemplated had been taken. Moreover, the Government had received information which, fortunately, turned out to be erroneous, but which made secrecy absolutely necessary. He complained that although the motion submitted to the House had no object whatever except to condemn the acts of the Government, yet no direct issue was raised by which the House could express practically any opinion upon those acts. The action of the Government had been to advise Her Majesty, in a time of eminent emergency, to use her undoubted prerogative to move a portion of her forces from one part of her dominions to another; and, looking to the exigencies and the circumstances of the case, they had only done what it was their duty to do. There had not been (Mr. Cross proceeded to say) a single man raised without the authority of Parliament; the Sovereign had moved her troops acting within her undoubted right, and therefore there had been no infringement of the Bill of Rights; neither had there been any infringement of the Indian Government Act, inasmuch as the Government had come down and asked Parliament to vote the money, thus complying both in the letter and in the spirit with the constitutional check imposed upon an ambitious Ministry or an unconstitutional Sovereign. Mr. Cross concluded by saying:—

The Queen has moved her troops as she has an

undoubted right to do, and, therefore, there has been no infringement of the Bill of Rights. (Loud Ministerial cheers.) I say, too, that there has been no infringement of the India Act. The Government will come down at once to ask Parliament to vote the necessary supplies, and that is the constitutional check which is placed by the India Government Act upon an ambitious Government or an unconstitutional sovereign. We have entirely complied with the letter and spirit of that Act. (Ministerial cheers.) The question then resolves itself into a matter of a few days more or less in bringing the cost under the notice of the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) We are not asked by the terms of the resolution to give an answer on that head. I am bound to say, as regards the whole matter, it is impossible for the Government to enter fully into a discussion of all the negotiations going on. You know that if ever there was a moment in the negotiations, it is this, in which no word should fall from one standing here which could in the slightest degree provoke anger or jealousy, or tend to disturb the friendly relations existing between us and other Powers, or tend to prejudice that agreement of Europe by which we hope a lasting peace may be established and preserved and the interests of the European populations amply secured. (Cheers.) Knowing that, I say it was unfair to press on us the point as to what we have done under an emergency. I say we can show an emergency existed. I believe the country will say that we have done nothing but what the emergency actually called for, and will throw the accusations made by the right hon. gentleman against this rock whereon our efforts against the ancient liberties of the people were to dash themselves. (Ministerial cheers.) I am sure the all but undivided opinion of the country will be shown in the long run to be in favour of the action of the Government. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. HERSHELL followed in support of the resolution, which he said had not been proposed with any intention of embarrassing the Government, but in order to vindicate the constitutional rights and safeguards which were necessary for the liberties of the people and the security of the country. He spoke fluently and well, now and then making a lively onslaught on honourable gentlemen opposite as when he said that the Attorney-General's views on the Royal prerogative would do honour to the régime of the Stuarts, and as when, in answer to repeated interruptions from the benches opposite, he exclaimed, "I do not care to convince those who are incapable of believing that a person can honestly differ from them." Mr. Herschell was often cheered by his party, above all after a terse reminder that "the acts of to-day become the precedents of to-morrow," and in the course of an emphatic repudiation of the charge of faction and want of patriotism.

Mr. ROEBUCK regarded the time of this discussion as most inopportune, and the mode in which it was initiated and conducted as most mischievous. Could anybody, he asked, believe that we were in a state of profound peace when to-morrow we might be at war? The one great encouragement to the opponents of England was the notion that this was a divided and therefore a weak nation. He asked his countrymen to contrast the attitude of Her Majesty's Government, firm in their determination to maintain the interests of Europe against a despotic Power, with that of the Opposition, who, when the interests of the country were at stake, and when every word spoken would either strengthen or weaken its power, came forward with a vague abstract proposition about some point of technical law which the House of Lords would not dare to call in question. He ridiculed the extravagant assertion that the liberties of the people were endangered by what the Government had done, and charged Mr. Gladstone with strengthening the hands of the enemies of his country. The action of the Opposition in attacking the Government and endeavouring to create discord at a moment of grave peril was neither honest nor patriotic, seeming, indeed, as though they had said, "We can make England less powerful than she is, and we will do it." Finally, he declared, with deliberate emphasis, that the Opposition had not only deserved, but would receive, the most severe reprobation; and sat down amid the heartiest signs of gratification from the opposite benches.

The House rapidly thinned after the speech of Mr. Roebuck, but the debate was continued by Mr. HALL, the hon. member for Oxford. Mr. WADDY followed the Conservative member for Oxford, and preceded a long and elaborate exposition of the law affecting our Indian army with a reference to the "excited irrelevancies" of Mr. Roebuck, quoting also from a former speech of that gentleman, in which he protested against the use of the Indian troops against Persia as unconstitutional. Then followed Sir A. GORDON, who, speaking from near Mr. Newdegate's seat, expressed inability to go with his leaders, on the ground that the Indian troops could not legally be moved out of their country. Then Mr. HOLMS rose, and after a short speech, was followed by General Shute, who elicited protests from the Opposition by the remark that there were persons who "would rejoice in a positive military disaster to our forces." The remark, of course, had to be withdrawn.

After some remarks from Mr. Synan and Lord R. Montagu, Mr. W. E. FORSTER, who, declining the Chancellor of the Exchequer's suggestion that he should speak from his seat, addressed the House standing, supported by crutches. He pronounced the amendment of the Secretary of State for the Colonies an evasion of the question at issue. The contention of the Opposition was that the Ministry had disregarded both the statute law and the privileges of Parliament, and that, in calling upon the House to vote a budget while they kept it in ignorance of the steps they meant to take, they had as

far as they could set at nought the power of the House to grant or refuse supplies. The motion of Lord Hartington he regarded as extremely moderate and considerate towards the Government, and as it was not intended to embarrass them it could contain no censure. Its real object was to place upon record a protest which would prevent this infringement of parliamentary privileges becoming a precedent. What the Ministry ought to have done was to frankly admit that if an infringement of those privileges had taken place it was due to an imperious necessity, and that it should not be a precedent for the future. It was a mockery to speak of parliamentary government if so important a change as the introduction of Indian troops into Europe was to be made without the House being consulted or any information being given to it.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL contended that if the whole of the troops voted by Parliament were concentrated in this country, and all the colonies garrisoned solely by the Indian army, there would not be the smallest infringement of the Bill of Rights. He denied also that the step taken by the Government was an evasion of the control of Parliament. With respect to a point raised by Mr. Waddy, he explained that since the Act of 1858 the terms of enlistment of the Indian army had been altered, and that the troops were enlisted to serve Her Majesty in any part of the world.

Sir H. JAMES remarked that the amendment was simply a dilatory plea that nobody should embarrass the Government; while the motion was proposed upon the exact lines of the motion proposed under similar circumstances by Mr. Grey in 1794. Adverting to the attack made upon the Opposition by Mr. Roebuck, he indignantly asked what right the hon. and learned gentleman had to accuse the occupants of that bench of dishonesty and want of patriotism, and declared that the Liberal party would be gratified to see him sitting among his Conservative allies, whom he had upon former occasions virulently denounced. Turning next to the legal and constitutional question, the hon. and learned gentleman at great length argued that the Government had acted in direct violation both of the law and of constitutional precedent.

During the Solicitor-General's speech, Mr. Roebuck, who had been absent, entered the House, and took his seat for a few moments upon the front Opposition bench below the gangway, but after a short conversation with Mr. Dillwyn, crossed the floor, and, amid loud cheers from the Opposition, took a vacant seat at the lower end of the corresponding bench on the Conservative side.

It was nearly one o'clock when the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose to sum up the debate on the Ministerial side. He contended, with regard to Lord Hartington's resolution, that whether the doctrine of its proposer was true or false, there was nothing whatever in the existing circumstances to justify them in coming forward and laying down such a doctrine in an abstract form at the present juncture. So far as the power of the prerogative was concerned Parliament had complete control over the Crown and the Ministers in these matters, and it could turn out any Ministry which attempted to abuse that power. The power of the Crown was limited to the extent that it was not legal for it to bring into the United Kingdom any forces beyond the number voted by Parliament; but, subject to this and certain other limitations, it was the undoubted right of the Sovereign to use the Indian army whenever it was necessary. On the whole, short of coming to Parliament for its previous consent, he did not see what more the Government could do than they had done. They had endeavoured, so far as it was in their power, to act in conformity with the law, and they believed they had not violated the provisions of the Bill of Rights or the Indian Government Act; and if they had done anything which could be called illegal—and he doubted even that—it was that they had undertaken a large expenditure before coming to Parliament for its sanction. The control of Parliament over the forces of the Crown had not been weakened in the smallest degree by what had been done, and therefore Her Majesty's Government could not assent to an unnecessary, superfluous, and consequently a mischievous resolution.

After some remarks from Major Nolan and Mr. Bromley-Davenport, the Marquis of HARTINGTON replied, retorting with much spirit on Mr. Roebuck, and rallied the Attorney-General on the doctrines which he had advanced in his speech. No emergency, he asserted, had been made out to justify the Government in not taking Parliament into its confidence, and as the Government now possessed more power than at any previous time to commit the country to war, it was of more importance to strengthen the control of Parliament. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that no Government would advise the Crown to declare war without the consent of Parliament. He (Lord Hartington) was not quite so sure of that. It was perfectly possible for the advisers of the Crown to push the prerogative to what the right hon. gentleman called an absurd conclusion.

The House then divided, and the numbers were:—

For Lord Hartington's resolution	226
Against it	347
Majority	—121

The announcement of the numbers was received with loud cheers from the Ministerial benches, and the amendment was agreed to.

The House adjourned at ten minutes past three o'clock.

The following is an analysis of the division:—

For the resolution	226
Against	347
Tellers	4
Speaker	1
Seats vacant	0

578

Total number of members in the present House

651

Absent from the division

73

The minority were composed of 225 Liberals and Home Rulers, and one Conservative (Mr. Newdegate).

It is stated that in the course of the evening 271 members of the Liberal party were in the House, being within twenty-eight of the entire body, yet only 226 and the two tellers went into the Liberal lobby. The following twenty Liberals voted with the Government:—Dr. Brady, the Hon. C. Fitzwilliam, Mr. W. H. Forster, Mr. French, Mr. H. A. Herbert, Mr. H. O. Lewis, the Marquis of Lorne, Mr. Moore, Mr. O'Byrne, Major O'Gorman, Dr. O'Leary, Mr. Roebuck, Sir N. Rothschild, Mr. Samuda, Mr. C. P. Talbot, Mr. Walter, Dr. Ward, Sir E. Watkin, Mr. A. Watkin, and Mr. Yeatman. The following twenty Liberals were in the House in the course of the evening but did not vote:—Mr. W. Beaumont, Mr. Biggar, Mr. Bryan, Mr. J. Cowen, Mr. Dunbar, Mr. Kirk, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Laverton, Mr. J. Locke, Sir J. M'Kenna, Mr. W. F. Maitland, Mr. P. Martin, Major O'Beirne, Mr. O'Cleary, Mr. Parnell, Mr. R. Power, Mr. Redmond, Mr. Shaw, Marquis of Stafford, and Mr. M'Cullagh Torrens. The Government majority was ten less than was obtained last year on Mr. Gladstone's resolutions. The pairs numbered eleven, the Liberals being Mr. Shiel, Mr. M. T. Bass, Mr. Synan, Sir C. Rashleigh, Mr. Wykeham Martin, Serjeant Sherlock, Mr. B. Whitworth, Mr. K. Hodgson, Mr. Bolekow, Sir W. Lawson, and Mr. John Bright.

The heaviest division taken during the present Parliament was on Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions on May 14, 1877, when 223 voted with the Liberals, or three less than on the present occasion, and 354 with the Government, or seven more than now, the majority then being 131, as against 121 now. The nearest divisions to these two in point of size were those on the Slave Circular, in February, 1876, when the Government had a majority of 293 to 248, and on Sir Henry James's motion regarding the Royal Titles Proclamation, in the same session, when the Government had a majority of 334 to 226, the latter being the same number as Thursday night's minority. The number (248) secured by the Opposition on the Slave Circular was the largest of any they have had on a straight party division during the existence of the present House of Commons.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE.

On Monday night Mr. FAWCETT stated that in order not to interfere with Sir G. CAMPBELL, he would postpone his resolution on the Indian contingent until the Indian Budget, if he could not obtain an earlier opportunity.

On going into Supply on the Supplementary Estimate Sir G. CAMPBELL moved for a select Committee to inquire into the cost, direct and indirect, of Her Majesty's Indian troops serving beyond the old Indian limits—that of the Cape of Good Hope. Although he did not admit that a fitting opportunity had arisen, and regretted deeply the wound which the Government had inflicted on the Constitution, he was favourable, in certain circumstances, to employing the Indian Army in garrisoning some of our Colonies, and was even ready to bring over a detachment to this country for honorary purposes. Colonel STANLEY, on behalf of the Government, assented to an inquiry, with the understanding that it must be at a later period of the session.

A general discussion of the subject ensued. Mr. HAYTER showed that Indian troops could only be employed at very great cost. Sir E. COLEBROOKE was favourable to the experiment, but thought it could not be tried until the Indian army had been organised with a view to it. Sir H. HAVELOCK predicted that the result of an inquiry would be to show that Indian troops could not be employed with advantage, except in a great emergency; while Mr. A. MILLS expected from it totally opposite results. Mr. CHILDERS reminded the House that the former inquiry had been of an exhaustive character, and asked for further information as to the exact points which the new committee was to go into; after which Sir G. Campbell's amendment was negatived without a division. Mr. RYLANDS then stated at length his objection to the policy of menace and demonstrations; and Mr. E. JENKINS condemned the employment of Indian troops as likely to raise the jealousy of Europe and to create dangers in India. Mr. GLADSTONE repeated his reasons for believing the measure to be illegal, and contended that the Government had broken the Common Law by increasing the standing army without the sanction of Parliament, and had violated the 41st, 55th, and 57th sections of the Government of India Act. Mr. E. STANHOPE, addressing himself to the last point, showed that the 57th section did not restrict the services within the local limits of the jurisdiction of the old East India Company. Sir A. GORDON, on the other hand, insisted that the Indian native army was not liable to serve out of those limits. Mr. MUNTZ said he felt so strongly on the constitutional point that he must with regret vote against the Speaker leaving the chair. The debate was continued by Sir George

Bowyer, Mr. Hopwood, Dr. Lush, Mr. B. Cochrane, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Jacob Bright, and Mr. Hardcastle.

Lord HARTINGTON said that if the opposition to the Speaker leaving the chair was pushed to a division he could not take part in it, because it was unprecedented, and could lead to no practical result except postponing the Estimates until Thursday. There had been so much mystery and so many irreconcilable statements in justification of their policy that until the Government could lay their full case before the House it was impossible to discuss it. For the same reason he thought it wisest to offer no opposition to the vote in committee. It was proposed too late for securing the control of Parliament, and too soon to be discussed with sufficient information; at the same time, lest the Government should interpret the granting of this estimate as a vote of confidence, he pointed out that all that Parliament had done was to sanction the policy of preparation, and he warned the Government against presuming upon this to commit the country to war.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that the Government had never at any time wished to plunge the country into war; on the contrary, they believed that their measures—and this among others—were calculated to avert war and to bring about a peaceful and permanent settlement. He agreed with Lord Hartington that this was an inconvenient opportunity for challenging the policy of the Government, but he admitted that it would be within the competence of Parliament to express its opinion on it at some future time. After some remarks from Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Fawcett, who decided to follow the course recommended by Lord Hartington, the House divided, when the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair was carried by 214 to 40.

The House then went into committee of supply, and the two votes in the Army and Navy Departments for the Indian contingent were agreed to.

Anniversary Meetings.

THE FRIENDS' YEARLY MEETING.

The Annual Assembly of the Society of Friends commenced its sittings in London on Wednesday last, and still continues, by adjournments, from day to day. The chairman is Mr. George S. Gibson, of Saffron Walden, assisted in his duties by Mr. Arthur Pease, of Darlington, and Mr. Caleb R. Kemp, of Lewes. The attendance is hardly up to the average. The proceedings have included interesting discussions on the home and foreign relations of the Society. In particular, the threatening aspects of the Eastern Question have claimed the serious consideration of the Assembly, in connection with the evils of war and the pernicious influences of international jealousies and strifes, from a Christian point of view. It was decided to embody the religious testimony of the Society in favour of peace, in a special document for general circulation, especially amongst the members of other religious denominations. Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., has also been invited to deliver an address on the peace question to the younger members of the society in attendance at this annual gathering, with a view to enlist their increased interest in this important subject.

The religious interests of the body have claimed comprehensive notice by many speakers who delivered addresses of practical application as to the public and private duties of their brethren. Several ministers spoke of the importance in these busy days of numerous absorbing engagements, of each person securing for himself, every morning, before leaving his bedchamber, if possible, a brief portion of time for the reading of the Scriptures and for prayerful meditation. The collective family reading of the Bible was also alluded to as an almost universal practice in the Society, but it was advised that the occasion should be generally improved by the head of each household (as being by divine ordination priest of that household) making brief running comments on the portions of Scripture being read, inasmuch as the Bible, from its very familiarity to the ear, is apt to receive less earnest attention from the young and from servants, than is the case when their minds are called to the real meaning of what is read.

Some allusion being made by several speakers to the practice of some friends of attending occasionally other places of worship, Mr. George Palmer, the new M.P. for Reading, remarked that persons really desirous of religious edification will be likely to go where they can best obtain such an advantage; and if they cannot find it in their own meetings will be likely to go elsewhere if there is a better supply. Hence the importance of earnest endeavours to promote the religious liveliness of the Friends' congregations. Mr. J. J. Dymond, of Bradford, recommended individual persevering prayer, both for ministers and congregations, as a means of facilitating the good effect desired. Mr. Isaac Brown, of Kendal, spoke earnestly upon the importance of realising Christ's redemption in all its offices, and as producing life through Christ; life in Christ and life for Christ.

A number of fraternal letters were read to the Meeting from the several Yearly Meetings of the society spread over the North American Continent, nearly twelve in all. In the case of one of these bodies, the "Western Yearly Meeting," in Indiana and Illinois, a small separation, or secession, was reported. Some discussion took place as to the

best mode of referring to this separation, which was felt to be a subject of much difficulty, inasmuch as the larger body was stated by the minority to have really commenced the separation by a departure from the principles and practices held by the Society hitherto. The English Friends are very desirous of treating both parties with kindly Christian forbearance and patience, and a general feeling of hope prevailed that, before another year, some conciliatory arrangements might be made with a view to restore the broken harmony of the Western body. Several speakers, however, mingled their friendly sentiments with significant hints that the larger body had been by no means wholly in the right.

Some allusion was made to the composition of the annual address, or "Epistle," of the London Yearly Meeting to its own members throughout the country. Mr. William White, of Birmingham, suggested that this important document might with great advantage be rendered more practically suggestive in its nature than hitherto, and not so exclusively didactic or hortatory as it has been of late years.

Mr. Bright, M.P., who usually attends the annual Assemblies of this denomination, being absent this year, through his recent heavy bereavement, a general feeling of sympathy with him was expressed, and the chairman was requested to convey to him, on behalf of the meeting, its united condolence on the sad occasion of his absence.

THE ABORIGINES' PROTECTION SOCIETY.

On Wednesday night the annual meeting of this society was held at the Devonshire House Hotel, 12, Bishopsgate-street. The chair was occupied by Sir Edward Fry, and there was a large attendance. Mr. F. W. Chesson (the secretary) read the annual report, which urged that, with regard to India, the best security for the stability of that part of the Empire was to be found in a just and economical administration by the Government, in the admission of natives to a more important share in the local administration, in the reform of land tenure, in the establishment of municipal institutions, in the abolition or reduction of the salt tax, and in other reforms. After dealing with matters connected with South Africa and the war there, the report on native affairs, by Mr. Cecil Ashley, was warmly approved. The society opposed the confiscation of native land, but advocated the substitution of individual for tribal tenure. At the present time there was great danger of hostile feelings being excited against innocent natives, and complaint was made of the frightful overcrowding of gaols with Kaffir prisoners. The report deprecated the assumption by England of any responsibility in connection with the recent cession of territory in Borneo, and also strongly condemned the execution of a native at Tanna, as involving the exercise by naval officers of a dangerous power. Profound regret was expressed at the loss sustained by the society by the deaths of the Bishop of Lichfield and Miss Carpenter. The chairman stated that all works of philanthropy were difficult, but in the case of the society the problems they endeavoured to solve were particularly so, inasmuch as they did not deal with one country only, but with various countries all over the world, wherever civilised man came into contact with uncivilised man, and wherever colonists met with the aborigines. As an instance of the difficulties of the problems before them, he referred to the question of the substitution of individual for tribal tenure, as proposed for South Africa. Their work required, not so much the desire to do good, as wisdom, thought, and serious meditation. The Hon. Lyulph Stanley moved the adoption of the report, which, after having been seconded by Mr. Sturge, was carried. Several other speeches were then made, and resolutions were passed cordially approving the principles upon which the society was based—that of the right of all men, without distinction of race and colour, to enjoy equality before the law, personal freedom, and the fullest opportunity of occupying any position for which they might be qualified by ability and good conduct; that greater encouragement should be given to natives who desired to exchange the tribal state for the duties and privileges of civilised life; and that with regard to the South African war the society agreed with Sir Bartle Frere that nothing could do more to prevent further Kaffir wars than a multiplication of institutions like Lovedale and Blythwood, and an extension of their system of industrial education to agriculture.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE SOCIETY.

On Thursday the annual meeting of this society was held at Willis's Rooms, the Archbishop of Canterbury in the chair. It appeared from the report read by the secretary that sermons in connection with the objects of the society had been delivered at St. Stephen's Church, South Kensington, which had been published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, under the title of "Some Witnesses for the Faith." Another course on the same subject had been delivered at the same church; also courses of sermons had been delivered at Paddington, at Stepney Meeting House, and arrangements had been made for the delivery of sermons at St. James's, Piccadilly, and at the Holloway Presbyterian Church; courses of lectures had also been delivered in Chelsea, Hoxton, Whitechapel, Walworth, and other places, and the Polytechnic Institution, Regent-street, making a total of eighty-nine in different centres. Conferences had been held at the City Temple, Zion House, and

elsewhere; 104 open-air meetings had been held; Bishop Claughton had delivered lectures on the subject of "Judaism in Relation to Christianity"; provincial auxiliaries had been formed in all the large centres, such as Oxford, Bristol, Plymouth, Leicester, Northampton, Portsmouth, Lincoln, Reading, Maidenhead, High Wycombe; lectures had been delivered by the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown at Highgate, Bath, Bristol, Liverpool, and Norwich; steps had been taken in connection with the Paris Exhibition; classes had been formed for the study of Whately's "Christian Evidences" and Paley's "Horæ Paulinæ"; grants of books had been made to clergymen abroad and to City missionaries; the Rev. T. T. Waterman had joined the society as organising secretary. Financially the society was in a flourishing condition. The balance-sheet shows an amount of 372*l.* in the treasurer's hands. This was a sign of real improvement, for it was the result of increased contributions. The receipts this year were 1,087*l.* The Bishop of Gloucester read a paper on "Modern Materialism." Dr. Sinclair Paterson followed with a paper on "Modern Scepticism," which was highly applauded. They took their stand on the fact that eighteen hundred years ago Christ lived, and changed the whole current of modern thought. The Resurrection was the fact against which modern sceptics directed their attack. He admitted that we could not find God in matter, but God had revealed Himself to us in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. They heard much of the warfare between religion and science, but he denied there was anything of the kind. He had no quarrel with science, and he wished to have none; but the men of science contradicted each other, and they must wait till the truth was made clear before they accepted the teachings of science. He contended that the society was doing a good work in teaching the evidences of their faith, and he claimed that there was no better reply to the sceptic than the course of a Christian life. The archbishop briefly commented on the address, and said that the age was an earnest and an active one. Mr. S. Morley, M.P., in moving the report, advocated the claims of the society. Lord Harrowby moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the meeting terminated in the usual manner.

RAGGED CHURCH AND CHAPEL UNION.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of this society was held at Exeter Hall (Lower Room) last evening. Bishop Claughton being unable to preside, the chair was occupied by Mr. Robert Baxter. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. H. Frith. The Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A. (Rector of St. George's, Southwark), one of the hon. secretaries, read an abstract of the report, which, after expressing thankfulness to God for success achieved, referred to the incalculable good effected through the stimulus imparted by the society's example and succour in the establishment of hundreds of mission halls throughout the country. Sanctuaries had been multiplied during the last forty years in a ratio never attempted before, yet the need for such extemporised appliances as those furnished and sustained by the society still existed. With the increase of population that need became more urgent and pressing. The substratum of the metropolitan population could only be reached by domiciliary effort. People who could not be induced to attend places of worship must have the Gospel preached at their very doors, and carried to their lowly homes. Many who were unable or unwilling to attend church or chapel would attend the simple ministrations conducted in a cottage, workshop, stable-loft, or shed near their own dwellings. Particulars were given of the work carried on in some of the ninety-five stations connected with the society, and the report concluded as follows:—

The committee attach no less importance than heretofore to the temperance efforts and educational appliances brought into play at the several mission halls under their supervision. They regard mothers' meetings, sewing classes, Bible classes, provident banks, singing classes, and Bands of Hope, as most important elements in their great evangelistic enterprise. But when all is done that can be effected by these subordinate instrumentalities, they must ever look to the salvation of immortal souls as the primary aim contemplated by the Ragged Church and Chapel Union. Sobriety, thrift, and improved household management are very desirable and commendable in their place, but they must never be accepted as substitutes for that inward renewal which the Divine Spirit alone can effect. Hence they wish to keep before themselves, their agents, and their subscribers the one great object to which the proclamation of the Gospel is ever directed, the conversion of sinners from the error of their way. They venture to assert that the method pursued by this society is well calculated to achieve saving results, and they deplore the lack of funds by which their operations are so continuously crippled. Could all the souls gathered to the fold of God be presented to the gaze of the Christian Church, it would be seen that proportionately more had been done by the small incomes placed at the disposal of the Ragged Church and Chapel Union, and kindred institutions of a Home Missionary character, than by many organisations of much greater pretension, for a large measure of the good achieved has been effected by unpaid effort, and by the self-sacrificing devotedness of men who felt constrained by the love of Christ to care and labour for the spiritual welfare of those around them. Once again, then, would your committee invoke increased contributions. The work of this society is as yet in its infancy. Tens of thousands of our fellow-immortals are sinking year by year into the grave without so much as having heard the voice of Gospel invitation. The gold and the silver contributed to such a cause must yield a larger rate of interest than any other investment can furnish, for he who gives to

God shall receive a hundredfold in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting. The following summary, compiled by a member of the parent committee from the local reports, will show the large numbers in attendance on the several services held in connection with the Ragged Church and Chapel Union during the past year:—

	Average Attendance.	Total Attendance.
94 Sunday Services	77	7,274
38 Week-night Services	49	1,783
24 Elder Children's Services	67	1,610

Mr. A. SPERLING, treasurer, presented the balance-sheet. The receipts, including balance from last year, were 508*l.* 12*s.*, and the payments 497*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance in hand of 11*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*

The CHAIRMAN said the cash account was not a very flourishing one, as somehow the society did not lay hold of the pockets of the Christian public. It had been established for twenty-five years, and was, he thought, one of those useful institutions raised up by God to do His great work. London was a nation in itself, with more than four millions of people—more than the population of Scotland! Great progress had been made in efforts for God, agencies and individuals had been raised up and greatly blessed of God. In the East of London thousands had been gathered into the fold of Christ, and in the country individuals arranged for meetings, and the Evangelisation Society sent agents, and the effects were marvellous. It was difficult to measure the effect in London, but he saw great difference therein. They could now go into any part of London without being insulted, and people would more readily take tracts. He had seen four hundred people, with the squire, gathered together in a cart-hovel in the country to hear the Gospel, and at Liverpool 4,000 attended the circus for a like purpose, and he never spoke to a more orderly audience. Wherever they went with the Gospel message it was accompanied by the power of the Holy Ghost, and the work of God was being done. The chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. M. J. STEWART, M.P., seconded the resolution. He took great interest in that society's work, and occasionally found himself at Field-lane Ragged School or George-yard Mission Hall. When they saw the development of the society's work in the ninety-five stations, he thought they ought to encourage it as much as possible. What was 500*l.* towards doing what they had to do? If only one soul was saved it would be worth all that money. As a teacher in young men's classes he had found that directly the young were free from parental control their lives were often blighted through their disinclination to enter a place of worship, and if it were not for such agencies as that society supplied the good seed sown in childhood would be utterly lost. Associations like that were the best preventives of Communism by keeping in the hearts of the people the love of Christ.

The resolution was adopted.

The Rev. G. M. MURPHY moved:—

That this meeting, while deeply grateful to Almighty God for past mercies and past success vouchsafed to the Union, is equally sensible of the fact that the signs of the times demand its unceasing efforts among the heretofore too-much-neglected poor of London and its suburbs. It therefore calls upon subscribers to increase their help; and upon all other friends, who desire the spiritual interest and the eternal well being of our poorer brethren, to do all they can, by furnishing the means, by their prayers, and by their sympathies, to assist and encourage those labourers who, with untiring assiduity, lay themselves out for work in the various stations connected with the Union; where, in humble dependence upon, and in willing obedience to the behest of the blessed Saviour "the poor have the Gospel preached to them."

The resolution, while expressing thankfulness for past success, spoke of the need for unceasing effort in the future. The population of London had increased since the last census, in 1871, in Lambeth 100,000, in Finsbury 40,000, in Chelsea 50,000, and what it was growing to who could tell? Increased help was needed, although he believed it was the best plan for people to learn to help themselves. In Lambeth they managed to pay all the expenses themselves, except the hire of the room. They had a very representative platform that evening, the chairman representing the Westminster slums, Mr. Cassin the Mint—not where they made the good money, but the bad—(laughter)—Mr. Tyler representing Whitechapel, Mr. Simpson Clare Market, and Mr. Orsman Golden-lane. There were many Prodigal Sons and many a Lazarus to whom they must take the message of salvation.

The Rev. J. DE KEWER WILLIAMS seconded the resolution in a humorous speech, and the Rev. R. C. BILLING supported it, and it was adopted. Captain SMITH moved, and the Rev. W. TYLER seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the meeting closed with the benediction.

ARMY SCRIPTURE READERS' SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Army Scripture Readers' and Soldiers' Friend Society was held on the afternoon of Friday last, the 24th inst., in the Large Hall of Willis's Rooms, under the presidency of the Right Rev. Bishop Piers Claughton, chaplain-general of the forces. There was a good attendance, and the platform was occupied by distinguished officers, military chaplains, and well-known clergymen. Prayer having been offered by the Rev. J. White, of Dublin, the report, a very satisfactory document, was read by the secretary, Mr. W. A. Blake. The right rev. chairman said it was with much pleasure he came among them again to advo-

cate the claims of the British army upon the sympathy and help of the Christian public. When it was remembered that our soldiers were drawn from different sources and composed of men holding various creeds, he ventured to enter his protest against anything which savoured of proselytism. Let the work be done in an honourable and a Christian spirit, so that no exception could be taken to the thoroughly unsectarian and Catholic character of the enterprise. While the course hitherto adopted was pursued he could assure the committee of his cordial and zealous support. The usual resolutions were proposed and carried after addresses by Generals Sir H. W. Norman, H. D. Taylor, Dr. J. A. Fraser, the Revs. R. Halpin, Canon Baynes, Burman Cassin, and S. H. Beamish.

Correspondence.

DR. KENNEDY AND "OUR UNION."

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In a letter in your last week's paper (May 22), Dr. Kennedy illustrates the condition of Independency by a reference to the French Protestant Church. As I understand his argument he deprecates the existence in the Congregational Union of a state of things resembling the condition of that church. The French Church is lifeless, partly by reason of the compulsory conjunction of naturally antagonistic, irreconcilable, and fundamentally divergent elements. I understand Dr. Kennedy to affirm that Independency ought not to permit within its borders such a deadly combination. Dr. Kennedy adds: "A voluntary church having any life in it would demand at once that the two sections" (the orthodox and the Rationalistic) "should separate." Dr. Kennedy does not explicitly say that he regards Independency as a single church, but unless that is his view his illustration fails. Still less, again, does Dr. Kennedy say that the Congregational Union is a church, or that it is co-extensive with Independency; but these assumptions are really in his argument, and, I venture to submit, are seriously misleading. The illustration of the French Protestant Church or any other single church is altogether inapplicable, unless by Independency you mean the Congregational Union, and by the Congregational Union you mean a church. The Congregational Union is but of yesterday, and it will be gone to-morrow. Now that it has been tempted to take upon itself the functions of a church, it has opened a new door upon a region bristling with dangers. But whether its suicide shall be accomplished speedily or tardily we may be consoled in feeling quite confident that Independency and our Independent churches will last as long as there shall be men who make the mind of Christ their guide.

It is, of course, competent for anyone to contend that the position assumed by Dr. Kennedy is correct, but I think it should be contended for, not quietly taken for granted. If "our denomination," "Independency," the "Congregational Union," are to be used as convertible terms, and if the institution thus designated is to be debited with the attributes of a church, I fear much inconvenience and confusion will be caused in those theologico-ecclesiastical discussions which the committee of the Union has now originated. I trust there will be a not inconsiderable party amongst us prepared to contend that churches and individuals may be *bona fide* Congregational Independents, though they may decline to belong to the Congregational Union, and may object to hold themselves accountable to its committee. I trust also that when an artificially-stimulated panic shall have subsided, an increasing number of brethren will perceive that the Union is in error in transferring from the churches to itself the care of evangelical doctrine.

Ever sincerely yours,

THOMAS GREEN.

Ashton-under-Lyne, May 26.

PARLIAMENTARY GRANTS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY.—I understand that the sum Ministers will ask Parliament for as the marriage allowance of the Duke of Connaught is 10,000*l.* a year. This is the sum voted in 1874 for the Duke of Edinburgh, and will be in addition to the 15,000*l.* a year which His Royal Highness already draws from the State. The allowance to the Prince of Wales, voted in 1863, on his marriage, was 40,000*l.* a year, in addition to which the Princess of Wales has 10,000*l.* a year. The Princess Royal draws 8,000*l.* a year. The 10,000*l.* voted to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1874 was in addition to the 15,000*l.* a year he had received since he attained his majority in 1866. The Princess Alice draws 6,000*l.* a year, and the Princess Helena and the Princess Louise the same sum.—Prince Leopold, like his brothers, has 15,000*l.* a year. The total amount paid by the nation as allowances to the Queen's children amounts to 131,000*l.* a year. Since their Royal Highnesses happily came of age the nation has contributed upwards of a million and a half sterling for their maintenance.—*Mayfair*.

Epitome of News.

Her Majesty's fifty-ninth birthday was celebrated on Friday at Windsor with the customary rejoicings. The official celebration took place on Saturday. In the morning there was the usual parade of the Household troops at the Horse Guards. The Crown Prince of Germany was present. In the evening the banquets customary on the occasion were given by the Ministers of State and the officers of the Household; and many of the public buildings and residences of the royal tradesmen were illuminated. A severe cold confined the Prince of Wales to his house, so that he was unable to dine with the Premier; and the death of the Duchess of Argyll was the cause of the absence of the Dukes of Northumberland and Sutherland, the Marquis of Lorne, and Mr. Chaplin, M.P. The Crown Prince of Germany was one of the guests of the Marquis of Salisbury, as was also Count Schouvaloff. Among those present at the reception of the Marchioness of Salisbury at the Foreign Office were the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, the Duke of Teck, and the Prince Louis Napoleon. Her Majesty's birthday was also celebrated in the colonies. At Montreal, Lord Dufferin, speaking at a banquet in honour of the day, characterised the Fenian rumours and demonstrations as Celtic effervescence, but added that if the movement became serious it must be severely repressed.

A State ball was given on Wednesday night at Buckingham Palace, by Royal command. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, the Duke of Connaught, the Prince and Princess Christian, the Princess Louise, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duke and Duchess of Teck were present. Count Schouvaloff arrived in time to put in an appearance.

On Friday there was a Cabinet Council, which sat two hours and a-half. A second meeting was held on Saturday, and a third on Monday.

It is reported that the Duke of Cambridge will shortly proceed to Malta to review and inspect the Indian contingent which has been ordered to rendezvous in that island.

On Monday the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany paid a visit to the Empress Eugénie and Prince Louis Napoleon at Chislehurst.

The House of Lords will adjourn on the 7th June until the 17th. The House of Commons will rise on the 7th, but will meet again on the 13th.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says:—It is commonly believed by men of all parties in Parliament that if the Congress be successful the Government will appeal to the country, take credit for their foreign policy, and obtain another lease of power.

Several promotions in and appointments to the Order of St. Michael and St. George were published on Friday. Bishop Perry, late of Melbourne, is announced as Prelate of the Order. Appointments to the Star of India are also gazetted.

The intelligence of the death of the Duchess of Argyll has been received with much regret. On Friday evening her grace, who was accompanied by the Duke and some members of her family, was dining with Lord and Lady Frederick Cavendish, at Carlton House-terrace, when she was seized with an attack of apoplexy, from which she expired at half-past two on Saturday morning. The deceased lady, who was a sister of the Duke of Sutherland, the Duchess of Leinster, and the Duchess of Westminster, was born on May 30, 1824, and was married on July 31, 1844, to the present Duke of Argyll, then Marquis of Lorne. As a consequence of this sad event, the State concert fixed for Wednesday next at Buckingham Palace has been postponed until Thursday, June 6.

On Saturday there were rumours that two more members of the Cabinet had resigned—Sir Stafford Northcote and Mr. W. H. Smith. The *Standard* says that the report had not a shadow of foundation.

An influential deputation, representing the Church of England, Nonconformists, and Roman Catholics, had an interview with Mr. Cross on Thursday afternoon, at the Home Office, for the purpose of presenting a petition, signed by many thousands of people, praying that all public-houses may, by legislation, be closed on Sundays. In reply, Mr. Cross said that, while he was heart and soul with the deputation in its endeavours to put down the evils of intemperance, he was sure that no Government could introduce such a bill as that for which the petitioners asked.

The Marquis of Salisbury has declined to receive a deputation to present him with the declaration against war, bearing 200,000 signatures, headed by the Duke of Westminster, on the ground that it would be inconvenient to the public service to have any discussion on the matter at the present moment.

Mr. Butt has "conditionally" assented to retain the post of leader of the Home Rule party. The conditions on which he has thus assented are not stated; but we are told that he had considerable misgiving in coming to this resolution. However, he has agreed, and the members of the Home Rule Parliamentary party have recorded their "great gratification" at his compliance with their wish. A meeting is to be held soon to consider as to asking Government for a night for a debate on Home Rule.

In reply to a resolution of condolence passed by the council of the Labour Representation League, the following circular has been received by the secretary, Mr. Henry Broadhurst:—"John Bright is anxious to thank his friends who have written to

him letters of condolence and sympathy on his sudden and great bereavement. He cannot write in reply to several hundred of letters, but must ask those who have so remembered him in his sorrow to accept this brief acknowledgment of their kindness, by which his heart has been deeply touched."

Lord Belper has offered £5,000*l.* towards the expense of a public park for Derby, on condition that the town purchases the land proposed in its entirety. Mr. Bass has also promised 5,000*l.* The land will cost 70,000*l.*, and belongs to Lord Belper.

A public park, laid out in an ornamental manner, was formally opened at Bradford on Saturday afternoon, the mayor, Mr. Briggs Priestley, to whom a massive gold key was presented for the purpose, performing the opening ceremony. The expenditure incurred in purchasing and laying out the land is about 42,000*l.*

In response to a suggestion thrown out by the Prince of Wales, a conference on the subject of the national water supply has been held in connection with the Society of Arts, and a resolution has been passed urging upon the Government the importance of taking steps in the matter.

Mr. Whalley, M.P., has been very unwell, and has not, it is said, been improved by a recent visit to Egypt. The hon. gentleman, however, made a point of coming to London for the purpose of voting in support of Lord Hartington's motion.

The Irish Nationalist papers are disclosing their "plans" for discomfiting England in case she should be involved in a war with Russia. Canada is to be seized by the small but formidable force which is encamped somewhere on the Vermont State line; the commerce of England is to be driven from every sea by the Cimbria and her consorts; and Russia has promised to aid the Fenians to bring about a revolution in Ireland. All this sorry trash is published under the shadow of Dublin Castle, and yet the readers of the *Irishman* and the other organs of sedition are told that they are enslaved. The *Times* correspondent says, "It is satisfactory to know that such sentiments as these are confined to a comparatively small and obscure class."

It is stated that the promoters of the Scottish Missions on Lake Nyassa are about to place a steamer on the Lower Zambesi, to maintain communications as far as the Cataracts of the Shire.

At the meeting of the London School Board on Wednesday, Sir Charles Reed announced that he had accepted the invitation of the Prince of Wales to act as juror for Great Britain upon the education section of the Paris Exhibition. A report was presented from the statistical committee stating that they had found that several of the ward schools in the City were not freely accessible to children of the poorest classes. The report was ordered to be sent to the Educational Department. An amended scheme for the instruction of senior girls in cookery was submitted, and the Rev. J. Rodgers gave notice of a motion on the subject.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the royal assent was given to the Factories and Workshops Bill, the Customs and Inland Revenues Bill, and other measures.

At the annual meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday, Lord Dufferin was elected president for the ensuing year. The Founders' Medal was presented to Baron F. Von Richtoffen for his travels and scientific explorations in China, and the Patrons' Medal to Captain Henry Trotter, R.E., for his labours in survey operations in Eastern Turkestan. It was stated that no additional funds had been devoted to expeditions during the past year.

The birthday of Queen Victoria was celebrated on Friday in Berlin by a grand banquet at the Imperial Palace, for which ninety invitations were issued.

M. de Marcère, the French Minister of the Interior, has instructed the Prefect of the Paris Police not to allow any out-of-door demonstrations on the occasion of the Voltaire Centenary on the 30th.

Mr. Gladstone has received the following telegram from Milan:—"A meeting of 6,000 citizens, promoted by societies of operatives, sends you thanks, desires the constant triumph of peace and civilisation, and through you transmits its salutations to the operatives of England, desiring that the Oriental complications may arrive at a pacific solution. Signed by the President."

News from Samoa received by way of San Francisco states that the British gunboat *Sapphire* has seized a small vessel belonging to the Samoa navy, in satisfaction of the indemnity claimed by British subjects for losses sustained at the time of the Steinberger troubles.

It is reported at Cairo, that the Khedive has agreed to accept a reduction of expenditure to the extent of 250,000*l.*, as proposed by the Committee of Inquiry into the Egyptian revenues. The reduction would be chiefly effected by considerable retrenchment in the Egyptian army. An increase in the revenue would, it is anticipated, be secured by a more equitable assessment of the taxes. Another statement is to the effect that the Khedive and the princes will abandon 200,000 fedans of land, in order to liquidate the floating debt. Economies to the extent of a million have, it is said, been accepted, and the readjustment of the taxes will produce two millions additional revenue.

The first Indian troopships arrived at Malta on Friday, and were cheered by the garrison which

lined the bastions. Nearly all the other vessels have since arrived, and the troops are accommodated in tents. The *Opinion* of Rome speaks of the arrival of these troops in Europe as an innovation demanding the gravest and promptest attention of the Continental Powers. The Suez Canal, it says, is now used by Lord Beaconsfield for a purpose certainly never contemplated by its promoters, and disapproved by such members of his own party as Lord Derby. The Asiatic diseases these troops may import are the least of the dangers to be apprehended from their intrusion.

The Constantinople telegrams state that with a view to the prevention of a collision between the opposing armies through any misunderstanding, a Russo-Turkish Commission has been appointed to fix a line of demarcation.

Nine thousand refugees have been sent by the Turkish Government from Constantinople to Asia Minor, but by far the greater majority remain in the greatest destitution.

A telegram from Crete states that the British Consul at Canea, while on a journey, has been shot at by Turks, but escaped unhurt.

It is stated that the British fleet will shortly leave its moorings at Ismid for a new anchorage.

A telegram from Constantinople says the superfluous battalions of the garrisons of Varna and Shumla have been withdrawn to the capital, but it is added that neither these places nor Batoum will be surrendered to the Russians at present.

A telegram received at Pera from Trebizond reports that on Friday the Russians in the Livana district, on representations from Dervish Pasha, retired to their former positions occupied at the time of the armistice. The conduct of the Russian soldiers, it is stated, had raised all the country against them to such a degree that had they remained longer a conflict would have become unavoidable.

On Saturday three companies of Austrian troops occupied the island fortress of Ada Kaleh, in the Danube, the Turks having evacuated the place on Thursday. At Vienna the occupation is the topic of the day, but it is denied that the step has been taken as a demonstration against Russia, or in opposition to her wishes.

It having been determined by the Russian Government to do away with trial by jury in cases of attempted assassination for political motives, or acts of violence committed against public officers in the execution of their duty, special laws to meet this subject are being drawn up by the proper authorities.

Six Russian officers, according to a New York telegram, have arrived at Philadelphia, and inspected the steamers *Columbus* and *State of California*, recently bought by Russia. They are also reported to have visited the shipyards.

The British gunboat *Sirius* is, it is stated, lying off the coast of Maine, in convenient proximity to the *Cimbria*; and ships are in readiness at Halifax and Bermuda to cruise along the American coast if necessary.

Mahmoud Damad Pasha has returned to office at Constantinople. He has been appointed Minister of War.

In the event of the Congress assembling, Greece will be represented by Sir Peter Brailas Armeni, formerly Greek Minister in London and more lately at St. Petersburg.

The Shah of Persia has been received with great distinction at St. Petersburg. He has left for Warsaw, and will proceed thence to Berlin and Vienna.

A tornado which crossed over a portion of the State of Wisconsin (U.S.) has caused great destruction of life and property, thirty persons being killed and fifty injured.

The strength of the military forces of Scindiah and other feudatory princes has long been a subject of anxiety at Calcutta, and the Government has now made known its policy. "Feudatory armies are required henceforth to be limited to numbers sufficient for internal protection." Political residents are also cautioned not to permit the general introduction of European officers into feudatory armies; arms of precision are not to be supplied to those forces; and the princes and chiefs are to be impressed with the fact that their military establishments must be restricted to a scale sufficient only for the maintenance of internal peace. The effect of this circular upon the ruler of Gwalior, who has 40,000 fine troops, may be disagreeable, but the Viceroy has probably made sure of his ground.

Miscellaneous.

On Saturday, June 1, there will be a grand Mozart Festival at the Alexandra Palace. Mr. Sims Reeves and a host of talent will appear.

EXPENSIVE CANARDS.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—"The Government appear to be singularly unfortunate in their information. The famous movement of the fleet in the Dardanelles was executed in consequence of a mistake; and now we learn from Mr. Cross that the movement of the troops from India was determined on in consequence of the receipt of 'certain information from a high authority which has since, happily, turned out untrue'; in other words, I suppose, of some bugaboo story from Constantinople. It would be difficult to find a more expensive pair of canards."

THE PREMIER AND THE "GREAT FAMILIES."—The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* says:—"The unexpected defection of the head of

the house of Manners in the person of the Duke of Rutland is the incident of Monday night's debate which seems to attract the most attention. It has been Lord Beaconsfield's ambition to attach to himself and his Cabinet the great families, and to induce them to figure in his Administrations, if not as exponents of his policy, as figureheads or weathercocks. The loss of the heads of the houses of Stanley and Herbert he endeavoured to veil by the promotion of the junior member of the former family and by the introduction of the head of the Percys. Lord John Manners has hitherto been kept as a proof that if dukes did not figure in the present Cabinet in such profusion as they did under Mr. Disraeli's former Premiership, their brothers were still ready to bring the prestige of the family name and influence. The Duke of Rutland's enormous territorial influence in the Eastern counties will make itself felt at the general election, and his bitter denunciation of the unconstitutional conduct of the present Government will not fail to produce important results."

POISONOUS VIOLET POWDER.—On Friday Mr. Poland, on behalf of the Treasury, attended the Epping Petty Sessions to prosecute Henry George King, chemist, of 14, Albert-street, Kingsland-green, on charges of manslaughter and also of misdemeanour in having sold violet powder containing arsenic in such quantities as to cause injury or death to several children in Loughton. An epidemic had been prevailing among children in the Loughton district for a long time, and from inquiries set on foot by the medical officer, the inspector of nuisances, and other officers of the Local Government Board, it appeared that powders sold by the defendant to Mr. Nottage and Miss Grout, of Loughton, and retailed by them broadcast in the neighbourhood, contained as much as 48 and 49 per cent. of white arsenic, and that the children of several persons who had used some of the powders had either been killed or made ill. The symptoms exhibited were such as would be produced by the application of arsenic. The Treasury had communicated with the defendant, who had replied that he made up the powders of ingredients which he had purchased of wholesale grocers, and had no knowledge that they contained arsenic. The case was adjourned.

THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC BUSINESS.—The committee which has been sitting for some time to consider public business in the House of Commons is now engaged upon drawing up its report. It was expected that it would be concluded by this time. But at the last moment it was decided to call fresh witnesses. Pending this several of the paragraphs in the report have already been agreed upon. I believe that among the recommendations accepted is one to the effect that when the House has once divided on the motion to adjourn and the alternate motion is repeated, the Speaker may call upon those who are in favour of it to stand up in their places, and if it be found that there are not twenty of that opinion he will decline to put the motion. There is also a proposal before the committee to the effect that in the event of a member taking a course which may be fairly described as obstructive, the House may after due notice condemn him to silence for the remainder of the sitting. This the committee have not agreed to, though it is by no means improbable that they may. At the outset obstruction was laboriously kept out of view, and it is Mr. Parnell's own fault that during recent weeks it should have been forced upon the committee. It is expected that the committee will report before Whitsuntide. But it is by no means clear that anything practical will be done this session. The Chancellor of the Exchequer shrinks from the prospect of long debates which are sure to ensue on the proposition to take action in the House.—*Mayfair*.

MR. GLADSTONE AND THE SCOTCH MINISTERS.—On Thursday a deputation from the Nonconformist ministers of Scotland waited on Mr. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., at the Westminster Palace Hotel, to present to him an address expressive of their confidence in him, and of their admiration of his conduct on the Eastern Question. The address had been signed by 870 Free Church ministers, 510 United Presbyterian Ministers, eighty Congregationalists, and 130 Baptists, Evangelical Unionists, and Wesleyans—altogether 1,593. The deputation, six in number, consisted of the Rev. Dr. Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free High Church, Edinburgh; and the Rev. Alexander White, of the Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh; the Rev. Professor Cairns, D.D., Edinburgh; and the Rev. Professor Calderwood, Edinburgh University; the Rev. W. Pulsford, D.D., Independent minister at Glasgow; and the Rev. G. D. Cullen, Independent minister at Edinburgh. Dr. Smith, Dr. Cairns, and Dr. Pulsford having briefly addressed the right hon. gentleman in laudatory terms, the right hon. gentleman in reply said he regarded the address as an authentic indication of the prevailing opinion of the Scotch nation. He alluded to the personal attacks upon himself, and passed on to some remarks upon the Eastern Question. He knew, he said, of no differences between Russia and this country; there were questions upon which it might be right that the voice of Europe should modify the demands of Russia, but these were not differences. He did not sympathise with some things that Russia had done, but they did not create differences. Our maxim should be justice and freedom to all oppressed nations. He deplored the excitement that had existed in this country now for a considerable time, and traced it to the unhappy action of the Government, which had also sown

distrust between the peoples of Russia and England.

MR. MORLEY, M.P., ON TRADE UNIONS.—In reply to a letter from the Bristol Trades Council asking him to explain some remarks on trades unions in a speech made at a recent meeting of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Morley has written:—"While I believe trades unions have done good service in bringing workpeople to act unitedly, and so in many districts they have ceased to be a 'rope of sand,' and have thus been able to insure better and more just consideration from employers, they have, by transferring all negotiations as to wages and conditions of work to middle men, who have often no connection with the work generally—none whatever almost always with the particular employer—altered materially the character of the relationship between the two classes. There is, I fear, ceasing to be the intimacy between masters and men which existed some years ago." Mr. Morley says this has been his experience as an employer, and, referring to the less number of hours for work, he says:—"I am clearly of opinion that, unless some different arrangements are made, involving some concessions, the demand for English manufactures will gradually diminish. Unhappily, in spite of Mr. Brassey and others, we know to our cost that some markets for certain classes of goods are gradually closing to us, and while this is, perhaps, to be expected, I feel anxious, before it is too late, to try whether I can induce representatives of both sides who have influence to meet and consider whether some amendments in our methods of conducting these negotiations, and other points seriously affecting the interests of the men, could not be brought into action. English manufactures cannot be consumed in England alone, and I confess I tremble for the future of large numbers of English workmen unless some changes are made."

MONSIGNOR CAPEL ON SOCIETY.—Preaching in aid of the Associated Charities, on Sunday morning, in St. James's Church, Spanish-place, Manchester-square, Monsignor Capel alluded to the state of society in the present day. He said marriages were becoming fewer and fewer, and a moral licence was now extended surpassing anything known before. Men and women had become so luxurious that it was impossible to enter the marriage state unless a man was extremely rich, or a woman had what was necessary to satisfy what she was pleased to call the necessities of life. The result was that a degree of wickedness was spreading which would one day bring a terrible and visible punishment upon society. The press also had been good enough to institute a law of morality of its own, and perverted the commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour," into a formula that whatever was known about people might be reported of them. The home was not sacred, nor were private affairs, nor even the person. It was taken for granted that everyone had a right to know about everybody else, and to proclaim that knowledge to the world. Religion was fast becoming a sentiment in the minds of many. People were fond of what was called an ascetic religion; they liked candles, crosses, vestments, and all those things associated with the liturgy of the Church. In society there were many people moving from drawing-room to drawing-room, merely to be the sources of gossip and uncharitable conversation. Such people were at once the ruin and destroyers of society. An encyclical letter from the Pope to all patriarchs, primates, archbishops, and bishops of the Catholic world, the substance of which has been already published, was read in the churches yesterday.

DEATH OF EARL RUSSELL.—We regret to announce the death of Earl Russell, which took place at Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park, last night, at a few minutes to eleven o'clock, alarming symptoms having set in some hours previously. The statesman who has thus closed a long life in the public service, almost without precedent in modern times, was born in August, 1792, and was thus within a few weeks of completing his eighty-sixth year. He was the third and youngest son of the sixth Duke of Bedford, and when only twenty-one years of age entered Parliament in 1813 for the borough of Tavistock. He represented also successively Huntingdonshire, the borough of Bandon, and the undivided county of Devon in the unreformed Parliament, and after the passing of the Reform Act sat first for South Devon, then for Stroud, and afterwards for the City of London, retaining the seat for the last-mentioned constituency twenty years—namely, from 1841 until 1861, when he was elevated to the peerage. He was Paymaster of the Forces from 1830 to November, 1834; Secretary of State for the Home Department from April, 1835, to 1839; Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1839 to 1841; First Lord of the Treasury from July, 1846, to March, 1852; Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from December, 1852, to February, 1853; held a seat in the Cabinet without office from the last date till June, 1854; was President of the Council from June, 1854, to February, 1855; Secretary of State for the Colonies from March to November, 1855; reappointed Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in June, 1859; and upon the death of Lord Palmerston in October, 1865, he was reappointed Prime Minister, retiring from office in June, 1866, on the defeat of the Reform Bill in the House of Commons. A grandson, thirteen years of age, the son of the late Lord Amberley, is the successor to the title.—*Daily News*.

Cleanings.

There are beautiful warm soda springs in Colorado, and people who go bathing in them at once exclaim, "Oh, but this is so delicious."

The just published report of an Irish benevolent society contains one paragraph rich in caustic humour. It says:—"Notwithstanding the large amount paid for medicine and medical attendance, very few deaths occurred during the year."

A millionaire, who was looking at a level tract of land which he had just bought at an extravagant price, said to the agent who had sold it to him, "I do admire a rich green flat." "So do I," significantly replied the agent.

A sportsman, after a fruitless tramp, met a boy with tears in his eyes, and said, "I say, youngster, is there anything to shoot around here?" The boy answered, "Nothin' just 'bout here, but there's the schoolmaster t'other side the hill. I wish you'd shoot him!"

"What are you in gaol for?" asked a prison visitor of a negro. "For bor'-win' money, sah." "Why, they don't put men in gaol for borrowing money!" "Yes, but you see, I had to knock the man down free or four times afore he'd lend it to me," exclaimed Afro's child.

SOULS UNSYMPATHETIC.—They stood up before a window, looking out upon the wintry day. The cheerful fire on the hearth sent its ruddy glow into the room. They were man and wife. Said she, with enthusiasm, "Is it not a grand sight?" "What?" answered he. "Why, this glorious time of the year." "Pshaw! I thought you referred to that old gentleman who fell on the sidewalk just now. Let's get near the fire; I'm chilly." "Dear," said she. "Well?" abruptly returned he, poking the glowing embers vigorously. "Don't you think that winter is monarch of the seasons?" "I—""Let the poets rave about spring, with her violet-sandalled feet all wet with dew—about summer, in her wheaten garlands bound—or autumn, stained with juice of purple grape. Do they half compare with ice-crowned winter? But what is your opinion of this beautiful day?" "I think—""This day, when nature, draped in her snowy mantle, presents a perfect portrait of chastity. See how the sun sports among the drifts, causing them to scintillate like diamonds. Is not this the chosen period of the year?" "I think that—""Oh, it is superb! No wonder Shakespeare has said, 'Be thou as pure as snow.' Look how the playful wind circles the downy fleece! Come, dear, to the window." He came reluctantly. She said rapturously, "Now what do you think of this day?" "I think that it would be a splendid day to track rabbits." Both were mute for an hour and a half.

EPPE'S CACAOINE (Quintessence of Cacao).—Cacaoine is not so rich as chocolate, or substantial as prepared cocoa, but when made is a very fluid beverage, with an almond-like flavour, clean to the palate as tea, and refreshing to a degree, owing to the volatile action of the set free active principle of cacao, theobromine. Cacaoine is the one stimulative warm drink that affords sterling support to the system. Each packet is labelled "James Eppe and Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, 48, Threadneedle-street, and 170, Piccadilly."

The Medical profession are now ordering Cadbury's Cocoa Essence in thousands of cases, because it contains more nutritious and flesh-forming element than any other beverage, and is preferable to the thick starchy Cocoa ordinarily sold. When you ask for Cadbury's Cocoa Essence be sure that you get it, as shopkeepers often push imitations for the sake of extra profit. Makers to the Queen. Paris depot: 90, Faubourg St. Honoré.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

EMLYN.—March 14, at Neyoor, South Travancore, the wife of the Rev. James Emyln, missionary of the London Missionary Society, of a daughter.

RICHARDSON.—March 31, at Autananarivo, Madagascar, the wife of the Rev. J. Richardson, L.M.S. Missionary, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

KEMP-JOHNSTON.—May 18, at Finsbury Chapel, by the Rev. Fr. McAulane, Fred. Chas., son of George Kemp, Esq., of Peckham, to Mary Eliza, daughter of Mr. Alexander Johnston, of Bishopsgate-street Without.

MAILE-COLBORNE.—May 21, at Haverstock-hill Congregational Chapel, by the Rev. J. Nunn, uncle of the bride, George Charles, son of George Maile, of Euston-road and Queen's-rescent, N.W., to Harriet Mary, daughter of the late W. H. Colborne, of Cuttack, India.

WORSWICK-SYKES.—May 22, at the Chorlton-road Congregational Church, Manchester, by the Rev. J. A. McFadyen, M.A., Frederick Henry Worswick, M.D., to Helen, younger daughter of Thomas Sykes, Old Trafford, Manchester.

PHILLIPS-RICHARDSON.—May 22, at the Congregational Chapel, Wilmslow, Cheshire, by the Rev. A. Richardson, of Malvern, brother of the bride, Mr. Charles Henry Phillips, surgeon, Bury, to Emma, second daughter of A. T. Richardson, Esq., Fairbairns, Wilmslow.

STRAKER-HINDLEY.—May 23 at Park Chapel, Hornsey, by Rev. J. Corbin, Edgar Charles Straker, of Glendalyn, Ashley road, Crouch Hill, N., to Lucie Honor, elder daughter of Frederic Hindley, of Lightcliffe House, Hornsey, N. No cards. At home Tuesday, 25th, and Thursday, 27th June.

REYNOLDS-NEWITT.—May 27, at Stow-on-the-Wold, W. N. Reynolds, of Lower Slaughter, to Sarah Anne, daughter of the late Mr. William Newitt, of Paxford.

DEATHS.

SELWAY.—March 1, at Roma, Queen'sland, the Rev. C. Selway, third son of A. R. Selway, of Walsworth.

EMLYN.—March 20, at Neyoor, South Travancore, Theodora, daughter of the Rev. James Emyln, missionary of the London Missionary Society, aged 2 years and 14 days.

THROAT IRRITATION.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Eppe's Glycerine Jujubes. Glycerine, in these agreeable confections, being in proximity to the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, becomes actively healing. Sold only in 6d. and 1s. boxes, by post for 14 stamps, labelled "JAMES EPPE & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, 48, Threadneedle Street, and 170, Piccadilly, London."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—IMPORTANT TO THE DELICATE.—There can be no utility at the present day in questioning the accepted remedial powers of this noted medicine, which deals swiftly and safely with the many malacies of the throat, lungs, liver, kidneys, and bowels inflic ed on mankind by the variable temperature of spring. Throughout the most trying seasons good health may be maintained by occasional doses of Holloway's Pills, which purify the blood, regulate its circulation, prevent dangerous vascular congestion, and act as wholesome stimulants to the skin, stomach, liver, bowels, and kidneys. This celebrated medicine needs but a fair trial to convince the decrepit and desponding that it will restore and cheer them without danger, pain, or inconvenience. —[ADVT.]

VIOLET INK.—A sixpenny bottle of Judson's Violet Dye will make a pint of beautiful ink in one minute by simply adding "hot water." Why not use this beautiful and economical preparation? In a painful of water small woollen or silk articles can be dyed in ten minutes. Judson's Dyes, 24 colours, sixpence per bottle. Sold by chemists and stationers.

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